

THE TIMES



No. 65,893

MONDAY MAY 19 1997

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TODAY

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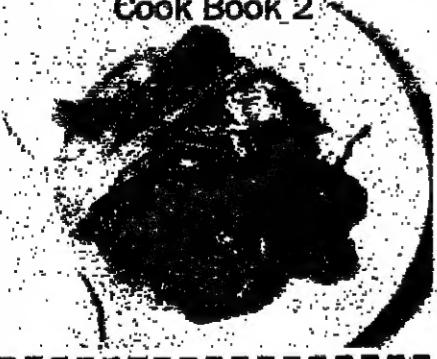
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WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY
Best for books:
reviews by Jeanette Winterson and Peter Ackroyd – plus Alastair Little on the River Café Cook Book 2



Labour MP faces police inquiry on bribe claim

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TONY BLAIR faced his first crisis as Prime Minister yesterday as police began investigating allegations that Mohammed Sarwar, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, paid a £5,000 bribe to a rival candidate to try to boost his own general election vote.

The political career of Mr Sarwar, 44, Britain's first Muslim MP, was thrown into doubt less than three weeks after he was elected with a majority of 2,914 over the Scottish National Party candidate Nicola Sturgeon.

Although Mr Sarwar strenuously denied a string of allegations, the Government yesterday called on Andrew Hardie, the Lord Advocate and Scotland's most senior prosecutor, to set up a police investigation into the affair.

The Labour leadership decided against taking disciplinary action against Mr Sarwar yesterday but issued a clear warning that it would consider his suspension from the party if criminal charges are brought against him.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, underlined the party's commitment to tough action, and senior sources made clear that Mr Sarwar's expulsion from the party was inevitable if the allegations were proved. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, called in Mr Hardie as Mr Sarwar was summoned to appear before Nick Brown, Labour's Chief Whip, at Downing Street.

Mr Brown held a 25-minute meeting with Mr Sarwar in his office before deciding that the Glasgow Govan MP should continue his work as a backbencher pending the police investigation.

Mr Sarwar will also be asked today to submit a detailed explanation of his defence before a provisional report is put to the Labour National Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday.

It emerged last night that the independent Labour candidate for Govan, Peter Paton, who polled 325 votes, is considering petitioning Glasgow Sheriff Court to have a rerun of the election in Govan. Mr Sarwar.

who has agreed to co-operate fully with the police investigation, has denied that he "bribed" another independent Labour candidate Islam Badar, who polled 319 votes.

According to the *News of the World*, Mr Sarwar handed over the money in a blue plastic carrier bag to Mr Badar, a former cricketer, while the two men sat in his white Mercedes.

Mr Badar, who was in hiding last night, alleges that he was asked by Mr Sarwar before the campaign to refrain from canvassing in order not to split the Labour vote. He says he did not canvass for a month after the meeting.

Mr Sarwar said in a statement yesterday: "The allegations made about me in today's newspapers are totally false. Therefore, in addition to co-operating with any police investigation, I will be consulting with my lawyers about taking out a writ for defamation."

The allegations are the latest in a series of alleged malpractices in the constituency during the election campaign. Strathclyde Police yesterday confirmed that they were already investigating claims by Mr Paton that voting was rigged and Mr Sarwar spent more than allowed on his campaign.

Mr Paton said last night: "I am demanding a rerun on the basis that the election was fundamentally flawed. I am considering raising a petition in Glasgow Sheriff Court and will be consulting my advisers."

He is entitled, as a candidate, to petition the court under the Representation of the People's Act 1983 if he has specific allegations of malpractice. If the court, sitting as an electoral court, agrees that there has been malpractice, then a rerun could be ordered. Any petition would have to be brought within three weeks of the election, a deadline which expires on Thursday.

Dirty tricks, page 2
Leading article, page 21



Karen Jones, from Wrexham, being comforted outside Old Trafford after hearing the news of Cantona's retirement

Cult hero Cantona retires with hint of theatre and film career

BY DAVID MADDOX

ERIC CANTONA offered the most unpredictable twist last night to a career of surprises by announcing his retirement from football with immediate effect.

Such is the cult of the Manchester United forward, who is 30, that he has transcended the sport. His decision invoked disbelief and anguish among the supporters who idolise him.

Cantona's capacity for the unpredictable may not have been exhausted. In announcing his retirement he hinted at a more exotic career. "I have played professional football for a long time, and now I wish to do other things," he said. That direction could be towards theatre and film. He has long expressed a desire to become a director, has recently financed the run of a stage play in Paris, and a film in which he starred *Le Bonheur est dans le Pré* is about to be released on video.

If there was a sense of shock in Ferguson's tone, then it was offset by his acceptance of the inevitability of Cantona's departure which reflected, perhaps, the harsh financial reality that is professional football these days.

Manchester United is a public company, and there is no room for sentiment, even towards a player who has done so much to generate its success. Cantona had long wanted to finish at the top of his profession and a failure to renew his contract and a search for his ultimate successor perhaps hastened his decision to

quit. Ferguson hinted as much when he said: "I think we will find a player of his calibre again, because that's what happens in football – great players emerge all the time."

Manchester United has not closed the door on a return for Cantona and history suggests there is still hope of the legion of fans who were devastated by his announcement. Before arriving in England almost six years ago, he had retired from French football and did not kick a ball for three months.

Simon Barnes, page 3
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Cantona: unpredictable

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Secret Nazi messages reveal Jews' slaughter

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TOP SECRET decrypts of German police and SS telegraph traffic detailing the systematic slaughter of Jews across Russia and Ukraine in the Second World War will be released by the Public Record Office today.

The decrypts carried out by the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park will reopen the debate about how much Churchill and the other Allied leaders knew of the early stages of Hitler's Final Solution. The declassified files will reveal overwhelming and gruesome evidence of a dedicated programme

of executions, all logged by the Bletchley codebreakers.

However, John Fox, a lecturer in Jewish history and Holocaust studies at Jews' College in North London, said the declassified files

would not prove that Allied governments were fully aware of the slaughter of Jews as part of official policy until late 1942. On December 17, 1942, the Allies declared an intention to prosecute Nazis for war-crimes when the war ended.

Dr Fox said that although the decrypts of German police and SS traffic were passed to Churchill "at his request" and to the Joint Intelligence Committee, the breaking of the German Enigma code was such a guarded secret that "very few people knew about it".

Dr Fox has seen some of the files to be released today after declassifying carried out by Bletchley Park were declassified by the American National Security Agency last year under the Freedom of Information Act. The

Continued on page 2, col 6

Prescott orders tough targets for water firms

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SWEEPING changes in the way the water industry is run will be announced today by the Government in an attempt to cut water consumption, end waste and save rivers, lakes and beauty spots.

The measures are expected to include the setting of tough, legally binding, leak-reduction targets, a requirement that all companies should offer a free repair and leak-detection service for customers, free water audits for households and plans for the creation of a water saving trust.

The changes will be announced in London at the water summit ordered by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, responsible for the environment. It will be attended by the water industry, green groups, regulators and the environment agency.

The Government's plan, designed to modernise the industry and help to guarantee supplies and wildlife protection into the next century, comes after sharp criticism of the utilities by Labour when it was in opposition.

The water industry says that



SATURDAY

Universal pictures

The world according to Hubble

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97.

WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG

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241 Glasgow Muslim fulfilled political ambitions at price of controversy

Rags to riches story of MP with many enemies

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

MOHAMMED SARWAR has been a controversial figure in Glasgow Govan, the seat he now represents as Britain's first Muslim MP. Last week he was sworn in singing the Koran amid the plaudits of Westminster, but that triumph followed one of the most bitterly fought campaigns of the general election. Yesterday, Mr Sarwar was summoned to London by Labour's Chief Whip, Nick Brown, to explain allegations of bribery and corruption.

Mr Sarwar has long maintained that he has been the victim of a dirty-tricks campaign and he admits that he has made many enemies as he has pursued his goals of political and business power. He was born in Pakistan in 1952 into dire poverty. His father left the family when his son was only four to try to make a living in Scotland. In the following 17 years, Mr Sarwar saw his father only once but regular cheques arrived from Mr Sarwar's father all who was working as an itinerant clothes-seller.

In 1973 Mr Sarwar's father died for the family to join him in Scotland, but by then Mr Sarwar was 22 and no longer classed as a dependent. He had to stay behind in Pakistan. Three years later, his uncle Ghulam visited him in Pakistan taking with him his

daughter Perveen, then 17. Mr Sarwar and Perveen married in Muslim and Church of Scotland ceremonies 20 years ago and settled with Perveen's parents in a three-bedroomed council flat in Glasgow's Maryhill.

The couple did not take a holiday for ten years, working in the family's corner shop from 9am till 7pm, seven days a week.

But the shop could not support the entire family, and Mr Sarwar and his brother Riazan looked for new opportunities. When a local egg wholesaler went bust, they seized their chance, buying hundreds of cases of cut-price eggs which they delivered to Asian corner shops around Glasgow, making a profit of 50p on each of the cases.

From there the brother's cash and carry business, United Wholesale, was born. The business has an annual turnover of more than £80 million. Mr and Mrs Sarwar own half the shares although Mrs Sarwar denies that the couple are millionaires. "We are comfortable, that's true, but talk of millionaires is nonsense."

The couple have four children, who are privately educated. The family live in a large Victorian sandstone house in Pollokshields, the upmarket end of the constituency. Mr Sarwar's business am-

bitions have grown in tandem with his political ambitions. "Politics is my addiction," he says. "Ever since I was a teenager I have wanted to change the world, to join with those who are trying to reduce the gap between rich and poor."

When the Pakistan People's Party was founded in 1967 Sarwar, then a 15 year-old schoolboy, joined. He was encouraged by Benazir Bhutto to take up politics in Pakistan after he left university. In Scotland he became president of the PPP, a post he held until 1992.

He has been a member of the Labour Party for ten years and was elected Labour councillor for Pollokshields in 1992. His ambition has been to become a secular figurehead for Britain's three million Muslims.

But despite his fundraising for a Glasgow mosque and his election as secretary of the Central mosque in 1986, he does not have the backing of the entire Asian population in the constituency.

Mike MacLean, the editor of *Scottish Asian Voice* says it is a mistake to speak of the "Asian vote". He says: "The way the community lives, works and thinks makes it so fragmented that you can't split it on race, creed or business lines."

Party makes uneasy progress in wooing minorities

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

ALTHOUGH the Labour Party proudly hailed Mohammed Sarwar as Britain's first Muslim MP, the party has sometimes had a strained relationship with the Muslim community in recent years.

Roy Hattersley, Labour's former MP for one of the seats, Sparkbrook, took up the Asian cause by writing to Labour's National Executive Committee: "A large number of the complaints [about membership irregularities] amount to complaints that Muslims have behaved like Muslims." He urged the party high

community was accused of trying to force out one of three white MPs. A party inquiry into claims that more than 250 mainly Asian members had breached party rules by not being on the electoral roll led to four constituency parties being suspended.

However, Mr Hattersley, former MP for one of the seats, Sparkbrook, took up the Asian cause by writing to Labour's National Executive Committee: "A large number of the complaints [about membership irregularities] amount to complaints that Muslims have behaved like Muslims." He urged the party high

command to ensure that an Asian candidate was selected for one of the seats to reflect the wish of the multi-ethnic community to be represented by someone from a minority.

Labour has emphasised its keenness to field more ethnic minority candidates but acknowledges that the policy has created some unforeseen difficulties. Strong campaigns by Asian activists to secure a candidate have prompted fierce internal disputes in several inner-city seats across Britain. In Manchester, Gordon, Gerald Kaufman, the former shadow Foreign Secretary, survived

Asian attempts to deselect him. The dispute boiled over when the Labour leadership suspended an Asian member and later had to apologise after admitting a case of mistaken identity.

A senior Labour figure said: "There is a problem when any section of a party is significantly more active than the majority of members. It doesn't matter whether it is left-wing, female, Muslim or whatever. It is not racist to say that many Asian members campaign more actively, some would say aggressively, for their cause." Labour leaders are

aware of charges of infiltration of local parties by Asian members. Roger Gossif, who eventually won the selection for the merged Birmingham Small Heath and Sparkbrook seats, called for a full review of Labour's membership rules to guard against "entryism" by any faction.

The party was forced to intervene amid allegations of membership irregularities when the Bradford West constituency party attempted to oust its MP, Max Madden. Two wards were suspended after allegations of irregularities were upheld.

MPs prepare for Bill to ban hunting

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs OPPOSED to field sports are expected to begin moves this week to put a law banning hunting before the Commons. They hope that one of their supporters will be among the small number of MPs selected for a Private Members' Bill.

The Bill is expected to focus on banning the hunting of foxes and deer with hounds. However, it is remains unclear whether the Government is willing to spare parliamentary time this session to give a bill the chance of reaching the statute book.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was yesterday forced to deny reports that the Government itself was preparing its own Bill to ban hunting. Speaking on *Breakfast with Frost*, he confirmed, however, Labour's manifesto commitment to give MPs a free vote on a ban. He had not decided which way he would vote. "It is not an issue on which I have ever felt profoundly strongly."

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, estimated that 75 per cent of the new House of Commons was opposed to hunting. "I expect the legislation to be brought forward as a Private Members' Bill," he said. "This will be a high-profile Bill. It is going to be quite attractive for a new MP who wants to make a name for him or herself."

Many of the new MPs have backgrounds as animal welfare campaigners. Angela Smith, Labour MP for Basildon, used to work for the League Against Cruel Sports. Roger Casale, Labour MP for Wimbledon, used his opposition to field sports to oust his Tory predecessor, Charles Goodson-Wicks, chairman of the British Field Sports Society.

Many Labour MPs will take their cue from Tony Blair, who has said publicly that he is personally opposed to fox hunting — which he considers "particularly vicious" — and will vote against it.

Water firms

Continued from page 1
Birds (RSPB), the House of Commons Environment Committee and the Environment Agency, is likely to mirror the Energy Saving Trust funded partly by profits from the electricity industry. It gets about £4.4 million a year and pays for installing energy-saving devices.

A water saving trust will use water companies' profits to install "water-miserly" devices such as low-flush lavatories in thousands of homes a year. It could also act as a research body helping to promote programmes to develop more low-water-use dishwashers, washing machines and other appliances.

Barbara Young, RSPB chief executive, said yesterday that higher abstraction licence charges should be made on water companies, industry and farmers who "are paying little for water because of historical arrangements".

Evidence of the scale of the murders is recorded in *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, the official war history by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley and three co-authors.

On August 7, 1941, for example, the commander of police in the central sector of Russia

Continued from page 1
Bletchley Park files are from archives held by GCHQ, the Government's eavesdropping centre in Cheltenham, and the successor to the Government Code and Cypher School.

They will reveal how meticulous the German police and SS were in recording the murder of thousands of Jews during 1941 and 1942. Dr Fox said: "You get the impression of a huge military operation."

The bulk of the executions were carried out by the police, known as Ordnungspolizei, in alliance with the SS. They listed executions under two headings: "cleaning operations" and "action according to the use of war".

Evidence of the scale of the murders is recorded in *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, the official war history by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley and three co-authors.

On August 7, 1941, for example, the commander of police in the central sector of Russia

Prescott stalls restart of tunnel freight

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JASON NISSÉ

JOHN PRESCOTT is to block the reopening of the Channel Tunnel to freight shuttle services until he receives firm assurances over safety improvements.

The Deputy Prime Minister will tomorrow meet senior managers of Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, amid French fears that he will step in to prevent the resumption of services suspended since last November's fire. A delayed restart would increase financial pressure on the debt-laden company, which has heavy French investment.

The six-month suspension of the freight shuttle service and repair work to the fire-damaged tunnel has cost around £200 million and Eurotunnel shareholders, who are mainly French, are anxious for an early restart.

The French Government is concerned that Britain is hardening its stance over the freight service, which Eurotunnel and French ministers are anxious to restart next month.

They had hoped that permission would be granted at Anglo-French talks last week. But Mr Prescott instructed British officials at the talks not to approve the resumption until he receives personal assurances that a £20 million safety improvement programme will be implemented swiftly.

Observers at the talks reported a last-minute hardening of the British delegation's position after Mr Prescott had criticised Eurotunnel's safety procedures. If officials cannot reach agreement at Thursday's Anglo-French meeting, ministers may be drawn into the discussions.

Last week's Channel Tunnel Safety Authority report into the fire was described by Mr Prescott as "an indictment of poor operating procedures and practices by Eurotunnel". He welcomed the report's 36 recommendations for safety improvements and demanded that Eurotunnel implement the changes "promptly and in full". He was said to be worried that the safety authority did not lay down a timetable and he will demand tomorrow that Eurotunnel sets out a clear plan for introducing equipment changes within months.

Mr Prescott is also to press Eurotunnel to commit itself to intensive work to change the design of its lattice-sided train wagons. Although he acknowledges that an immediate ban on the wagons is unrealistic, he is determined to obtain assurances that Eurotunnel will look urgently at ways of improving them.

Tougher rules due on animal exports

Ministers will today launch plans for an overhaul of the export of animals for slaughter. The Government is expected to clamp down on welfare abuses, which have prompted demonstrations by animal activists at ports.

The move will be coupled with fast implementation of existing laws to raise animal export standards. The review, carried out by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will cover all aspects of the export process, including loading and food and drink supplies.

Wet and wild

Torrential rain and thunderstorms caused flooding in parts of eastern and south-west England. Almost a month's rain — 15in — fell in two hours in parts of Somerset. Freak winds in the village of Wootton, near Bedford, damaged the roofs of 25 homes in one road.

Forecast, page 24

Holiday ends

More than 500 German holidaymakers whose cruise ship *Albatross* was holed in rough seas off the Isles of Scilly began the first leg of their journey home yesterday, on a ferry that took them to Penzance. The liner apparently struck bottom in shallow waters off the island of St Mary.

Seal rescued

A seal trapped in a reservoir at the Dungeness B nuclear power station, Kent, was forced to take a rest on a specially lowered platform, and hoisted away. It was taken to a seal sanctuary in Norfolk for checks, and will be freed at sea.

Seal stunt

Sian Fean's two new MPs will today attempt to gain entry to the Palace of Westminster. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness will arrive in the hope of picking up their passes before they are barred from using Commons facilities at the end of the debate on the Queen's Speech tomorrow.

MIPS opens up

MIPS is to release secret files from its origins in 1909 to 1918 to the Public Record Office, the first time that its archives have been made public. This week it is to advertise for graduate recruits, specifically naming the Security Service as the employer, also for the first time.

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Cantona created Manchester United in his own image: majestic, insufferable, compelling

From football talisman to national cultural icon

By SIMON BARNES

ERIC CANTONA, never previously seen as the retiring type, has retired. It is not too much to say that he leaves a gaping hole in national life. There is a footballing cliché much in vogue: "talisman". It is the Cantona word: the *mot juste* in fact.

Cantona came to English football in 1992 after a previous retirement, leaving French football in sulkiness, before landing at Leeds United and helping them to win the league championship. But Leeds found him uncomfortable and sold him to Manchester United for £1 million. It was the steal of the decade. For Cantona gave Manchester United more than his skill. He gave them his style.

Unsufferable arrogance. Immaculate self-belief. "I only know one way to take penalties," he said. "And that is to score them." He turned up his collar and walked with his shoulder-blades touching. He walked on to a football pitch as if he was doing the grass a favour.

Every Manchester United player took on a little of his style, his swagger, his belief. The backheel: that was the most obvious part of it. The backheel — flicking the ball



Cantona launches his infamous kung-fu attack

back the wrong way — is essentially a paradox: always showy and sometimes devastating.

In his career as a French footballer, Cantona was hindered by the lack of language barrier. But in England he was free in perfect incomprehensibility. And adored: the hero of his own myth, one he himself believed unquestioningly. Cantona's genius was to infect his entire team, and its following, with this belief: because of it, Manchester United are successful as never before, resented as never before, followed as never before.

Cantona created Manchester United in his own image: majestic, insufferable, compelling.

Manchester United won

loved to emphasise his taste for Rimbaud, and to act the philosopher. His not terribly gnomic remark — "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think that sardines will be thrown into the sea" — was the perfect example of Cantona overacting the part that is himself.

Perhaps the ultimate accolade came with a painting, a renaissance spoof by the Manchester artist Michael Browne, blasphemously depicting Cantona as the risen Christ. From footballing talisman to national cultural icon.

But Cantona has been a lesser footballer this season. Some trace his decline to a penalty miss in September: a miss that shattered his self-belief. His retirement may be no more than the latest sulk and it would be no earth-shattering surprise were he to retire once again.

It was inevitable that Cantona would go for the flashy overhead kick when a mere rabbit punch would have sufficed. But Cantona was always a man with an aversion to the ordinary.

Perversity is his nature. Had all footballers been philosophers and artists, Cantona would have been a moronic Rambo fan. Things being otherwise, Cantona

the Championship four times in the five Cantona Years: before his coming they had not won it since 1967. The year they failed came after his eighth-month ban from the game. This was the result of the extraordinary kung-fu incident, when he launched his famous flying kick at an abusive Crystal Palace fan.

But even if so, this is a momentous passing. There are many contenders for the First Modern Footballer: only one possibility for the first Post-Modern Footballer.

Man. He once said: "Vellir ne signifie pas qu'il faille trahir sa jeunesse, ses excès."

Growing old doesn't mean you have to betray your youth, your excesses.

Oliver Holt, page 25

Shocked faithful at Old Trafford face the future without their retiring hero

By RUSSELL JENKINS

DISBELIEVING fans headed, almost by instinct, towards the ticket office car park at the Old Trafford football stadium yesterday afternoon to discover whether the unthinkable was true.

There they stood, adults and children together, as if in grief, to mourn the decision of their idol who decided, as he headed towards the venerable age of 31, to hang up his boots. One sported a hurriedly scrawled poster which read: "The King has gone. Long live the King. Thanks for everything Eric." Gordon

Haima, 21, a security worker who lives in Warrington, Cheshire, a United fan all his life, summed up the bleak mood. He said: "Manchester is a different place today. It is a black day. Eric was the king of Manchester."

The fans had assumed that he would stay on for one last season and have one more attempt at putting United's name on the European Champions League trophy.

Cantona had other ideas. He left behind a terse statement as he and his wife, wife Isabelle and children Raphael and Josephine, headed off for a long holiday. The fans,

gathering outside the stadium in their red shirts and scarves, at first speculated hopefully that their hero would change his mind. Then they tried to assign blame for his sudden departure on the press.

Terence Walsh, 34, from Moston, Greater Manchester, said: "I am gutted. I cannot find words strong enough. He has gone. He was the impetus behind the team and now he has gone from Old Trafford. There is a lot of talk of Juninho coming here."

"I don't think anybody could do what he has done. Just his presence on the pitch could make the difference in some games. He always made the team play well. This is a sad day for United."

Marcel Wright, 21, from Wythenshawe, said: "Alex Ferguson should have persuaded him to stay another 12 months at least. He is the inspiration on the pitch and in the club. All the youth team players look up to him."

Mark Irving, 24, from Warrington, said: "This is the ultimate in going out at the top. The club waited 26 long years. We have never had a prolific goalscorer and a player who could change a game in an instant."



The United captain portrayed as the risen Christ by Michael Browne

Chelsea savours taste of success

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WHEN Chelsea last won the FA Cup 27 years ago it is a safe bet that the fans who thronged along Fulham Broadway were not sustained during the wait for their heroes by ciabatta sandwiches.

Yesterday the Sundancer Café was doing a roaring trade in Zolas (parma ham-mozzarella and tomato) and a concoction of salami and pepperoni which the owner claims is a favourite with Roberto di Matteo, a customer and the scorer of the fastest goal in the history of a Wembley cup final.

Sasha Vitovich, who is from Italy via Belgrade, has a sharp business eye. He opened his cafe, in a prime spot opposite the Fulham town hall and an olive stone's throw from Stamford Bridge, six weeks ago as Italian fever gripped this part of west London. The success of Rudd Gullif's cosmopolitan team had much to do with his Italian trio of di Matteo, Gianfranco Zola and, for a couple of minutes on Saturday, Gianluca Vialli.

Di Matteo waved at his sandwich maker as the open-topped coach inched past through an exuberant crowd. Scotland Yard estimated that up to 60,000 fans filled neighbouring streets. Many had been there since dawn, having partied all night after the 2-0 defeat of Middlesbrough.

Gullif said a few words that were relayed inaudibly over a PA system and Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport and Chelsea fan, was equally incomprehensible. The crowd cheered anyway. The players then disappeared inside the town hall for a civic reception. Much of the crowd returned to the pubs.

In Middlesbrough, Wembley's vanquished returned home to an enthusiastic reception — despite two cup final defeats and relegation. The team also toured in an open-topped bus.

Photograph, page 24
Match reports, pages 28, 29

Theme-park flag and anthem give UK plc an identity crisis



Same colours, new look: the image consultancy flag

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

Tired old Britain needs a new brand image, and the first things to go should be the national flag and the national anthem, according to a design consultancy which specialises in buffing up the corporate identity of major companies.

New, improved Britain should make its brand name snappier by dropping the word "Great". It should cast aside the 196-year-old Union Jack, with its intricate overlapping of the crosses of St George, St Andrew and St Patrick, in favour of a bold red and blue design with the word "Britain" emblazoned in white. And it should cease imploring God to save our gracious Queen, and sing instead

of green fields and spires, lakes and sea shores.

Wolff Olins, the image consultancy which turned British Telecom into BT, says business leaders believe that the country's image is trapped in a heritage theme-park past of the Tower of London and the Changing of the Guard. The image speaks to the world of poor industrial relations and the late delivery of goods, it says.

John Williamson, a senior partner at the agency, which unveiled its proposed corporate image for UK plc on BBC2's *The Money Programme* last night, said: "We need to create a new modern national brand — a new brand for the new millennium." According to research by the agency, conducted since February, people who buy a German car, Japanese hi-

fi or Italian suit are influenced by the reputation of the country as well as by the individual brand.

Some business leaders supported the redesign. Nicholas Scheele, chairman of Jaguar Cars, agreed that the country's brand image had fallen behind the times. Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, said the airline was about to unveil a new logo that put less emphasis on the national flag. "We want to be more cosmopolitan, more informal, but to keep the good qualities we have as a country."

However, Audrey Baxter, managing director of her family's Scottish-based soup and canned food business, said: "We are in danger of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. What's wrong with the

Union Jack? Why not use the Union Jack?"

Wolff Olins is the country's leading branding and identity specialist. Its past multimillion-pound redesigns have included colouring the famous ICI logo blue, changing the typeface and making the lines underneath less wobbly. But perhaps its greatest gift to civilisation was to kill off Buzzy, the intensely irritating bird that advertised the telephone service.

Less impressive is the consultancy's proposal for a national anthem, sung to a tune that has echoes of a ponderous Welsh hymn. "Green fields and spires, lakes and sea shores/Our towns and our cities, our goal to be more/A fusion of peoples, united, one shore/Our Britain, our culture, the world is our door," the spokesman said.

Nor is it entirely clear why the proposed new flag needs the word "Britain" on it, given that the present one, which does not, is one of the most recognisable emblems in the world.

Buckingham Palace yesterday emphatically denied a report that the Queen and her courtiers objected to the presidential style of Tony Blair's walkabout on his way to the State Opening of Parliament.

Palace officials poured scorn on a newspaper's suggestion that, with his informal style and breakneck pace of reform, Mr Blair was stealing the royal clothes. "It is inaccurate, nonsensical rubbish. The only thing that is accurate in the story is the spelling of the prime minister's name," a spokesman said.

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1 Life maintained

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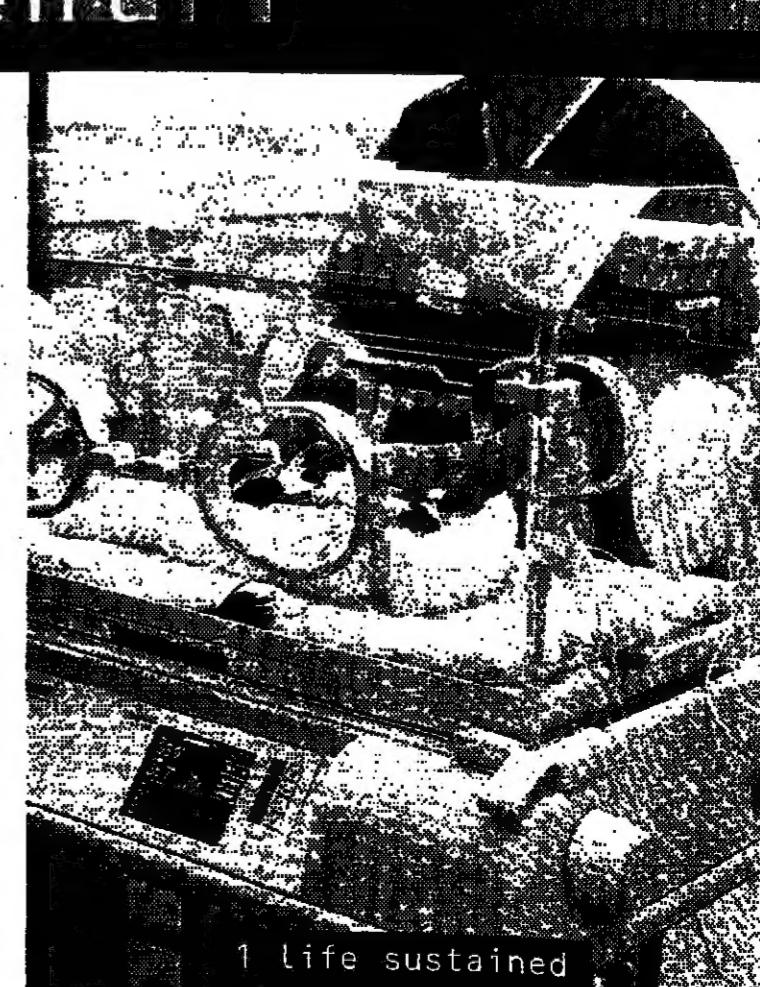
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1 Life sustained

Tiniest water company has good service on tap

BRITAIN'S smallest water company stands high and dry above the wrangles over leakage rates, drought and fat-cat salaries that wash over the rest of the industry, and which will be brought into focus today at the Government's water summit.

The 3,000 customers served by Cholderton and District Water Company in Wiltshire enjoy low bills, unrestricted supplies and some of the cleanest drinking water in the country. The company estimates its leakage rate at 5 per cent, compared with nearly 40 per cent for Thames Water.

Henry Edmunds, the managing director of Cholderton, runs it from a village farmhouse. He said yesterday: "I did a hosepipe ban about ten years ago. But since then we haven't needed one. We do not look favourably on sprinklers, however. I have a duty to get water to people for essential use and I do not look on them as essential."

In the past two years the company's water has complied 100 per cent with European standards, according to the Government's Drinking Water Inspectorate. Public

Nick Nuttall samples the wares of a firm that has no need of the tough targets that are to be imposed on the major privatised water suppliers by John Prescott

service remains central to the company's ethos, echoing its origins. Cholderton was set up in 1904 by Henry Stephens, the philanthropic MP for Finchley and great-grandfather of Mr Edmunds.

"We repair all leaks immediately," said Mr Edmunds, who has a staff of three, says the company is making great strides in metering, in line with government, regulator and environment agency recommendations to conserve water. "Three years ago around half a dozen customers were on meters. Now it's over 100."

The firm, which supplies about 800 homes, farms and businesses in the villages of Cholderton, Wiltshire, and Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire, pumps 55 million gallons a year from one main and one standby borehole.

Bills, which cover only supply and not sewerage, are nevertheless some of the lowest in the country, at about £120 a year. Mr Edmunds admitted he was concerned about the drought and dwindling resources but believes the company can manage and

savings for the customer and should save us water."

Mr Edmunds, who has a staff of three, says the company is making great strides in metering, in line with government, regulator and environment agency recommendations to conserve water. "Three years ago around half a dozen customers were on meters. Now it's over 100."

Mr Edmunds attributes the company's success to its size and the customers' pride in having a local supplier. "There were once small, statutory water companies across the country. But they have been amalgamated or taken over. We are the last. Being small means we are right on top of the job. If customers have complaints they come straight to me and they get sorted out very quickly."

Malcolm Brown of Country Leisure, a Cholderton company of 30 employees that makes water-slides and other equipment, said: "We use Henry's water for toilets, drinking, washing and steam-cleaning. Never been a problem, always good pressure, plenty of supply and very drinkable, clear and nice. His prices are next to nothing."



Henry Edmunds on his company's covered reservoir in Wiltshire, serving 800 properties in two villages

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Think carefully before you turn the page. You may believe that a heart attack is the sort of thing that happens to someone else. But if you do, bear in mind that last year Norwich Union Healthcare paid out over £20 million in income protection claims. That's rather a lot of 'someone else'. For more information, talk to us now on 0800 400 123.

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Elephants find deep meanings with trunk calls

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ELEPHANTS communicate using deep rumbling calls too low for the human ear to hear. Research in the Amboseli National Park, in Kenya, has shown. Dr Karen McComb, an animal behaviourist from the University of Sussex, has recorded calls made by females, and shown that individuals may recognise the calls of as many as 150 others.

Their response depends on how well they know the caller. "Such extensive networks of vocal communication have not been demonstrated in any other mammal," she says.

The work, her research assistant, Daniel Rubenstein, and with Cynthia Moss, is to understand the social structure of the elephants, which is based on a series of family units consisting of adult females and their young. These families are very mobile, forming 'bond' groups, with closely allied families, and looser groupings with other families living further away.

Elephants seem to be doing more complex social things, she says. They are not just sitting there and communicating with their immediate neighbours.

The early hunters believed that the noises made by elephants were the rumbling of their stomachs, but they are in fact sounds produced by vocal cords so huge that the basic frequency is 20 cycles per second or less, below the range of human audibility.

"We can hear them because we hear the harmonics that go up into the audible range," she says. "But we don't hear them as the elephants do."

She has made a library of recordings of the calls of

individual elephants, and played them back through a specially-designed speaker. The tests show that the elephants responded positively to the contact calls of family and bond group members, moving in the direction of the call and calling back.

When they hear the call of a stranger, however, they either ignore it or become agitated.

By comparing these responses with detailed records of the elephants' relationships and movements, she found that the elephants' response depends on their familiarity with those calling.

What stands out is that the ones they see fairly regularly, they tend to ignore. The ones they get bothered by are the ones they don't see very often," she says. Because the sounds are so low frequency, they carry a long way, and can be recognised from at least 1.5 kilometres.

"It's amazing when you see an elephant turn towards a sound, you yourself cannot even hear," she says. Some people have argued that alarm signals can be heard over even greater distances.

She has recently received a grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and intends to return to Amboseli in July. The question to be answered is what enables elephants to develop such large networks of communication.

"Elephants move around a lot, so they are exposed to a lot of signals," she says. "But it may also be to do with experience - do the groups with the oldest elephants have larger networks because they have had longer to learn?"

only apple



Only in The Times this Wednesday

Swampy's scruffy airport army gets rations from women who live in Styal



Man, Denise and Muppet Pete, who occupy a tunnel dug on the Manchester runway site



Sylvia Selfe and Gaynor Trafford taking care of Mutley, one of the protesters' dogs. They have "come to know the protesters as family"

Volvo wives take home comforts to eco-warriors

By STEPHEN FARRELL

SWAMPY and fellow eco-warriors seeking to halt construction of Manchester Airport's second runway have found unlikely allies. Each morning a Volvo-load of middle-class housewives arrives with supplies for their campsites near Styal, Cheshire.

The battle over the £172 million development enters its final stage this week as bailiffs prepare to evict Swampy — Daniel Hooper — and the other protesters.

The impending clash is unlikely to deter the women in Barbour coats and Hunter wellingtons who joke about having become "surrogate mums" to the dreadlocked and nose-pierced protesters occupying ancient Solsia Valley woodland, through which

local children have ridden family ponies for years.

Politely asking permission from security guards to pass through gates in the airport's 10ft razor-wire fencing, the women from Mobberley climb over defensive earthworks to bring day-old loaves, French sticks and doughnuts supplied free by a local baker. With Middle England efficiency they have organised a rota to ensure regular deliveries to dirt-encrusted activists in the five main camps known as Flywood Babylon Council Estate, Sir Cliff Richard OBE Vegan Revolution, Ziontree, Wild Garlic and Jimi Hendrix.

The women's duties include recharging the activists' mobile telephones and on batteries

and filling water containers from garden hoses. Two weeks ago they threw a huge picnic for the mainly vegetarian protesters, with vegan chillies, quiches, fruit and soy milk, laid out on garden tables in front of the bewildered security staff.

Drawing on years of experience preparing school lunchboxes, they gave each protester a sealed "eviction box" containing crisps, biscuits, mineral water and puzzles with strict instructions that the packs were not to be raided until the bailiffs move in.

Gaynor Trafford, 44, a housewife and Sylvia Selfe, 52, a company director, said that their husbands supported their actions but preferred to spend their spare time playing

golf and leading the Scout troop. Mrs Trafford, dressed in a bright pink pullover and multicoloured jacket more at home on ski slopes, carries a mobile telephone to pass on shopping requests from her new friends, and complains that her Suzuki four-wheel drive vehicle is followed everywhere by police.

"We have come to know the protesters as family over the last four months," she said. "We bring them back for baths, do their washing, carry out a little puppy-minding and act as agony aunts. Some locals do say to us the runway will create a lot of jobs for the area but most people in Mobberley are firmly against it and support these youngsters. They have been no trouble at all. I have had to promise my husband I won't get arrested but I'm afraid I won't be able to just stand by and do nothing when the evictions start."

Mrs Selfe good-naturedly shrugs off teasing about her insistence on wearing nail polish and starched white collars when carrying bin-liners full of fruit and buns through muddy fields. She admits her two Gordon setters took time to adjust to sharing their garden with a collection of protesters' mongrels with such names as Mutley and Muppet, but shrieks with laughter at the thought of getting further involved.

She will not be occupying a 60ft treehouse: her fear of heights leaves her unable even to climb unaided the flight of steps down to the camps. "An awful lot of people feel the way we do but don't want to get involved. We just really, really don't want this runway on our doorstep. This is such a lovely valley," she said.

Eighty activists occupy the six camps on the A538 Wilmslow to Manchester road. The settlements are an untidy collection of ragged tents, tree walkways and firepits behind makeshift drawbridges and barbed-wire-filled moats, unlikely to trouble the bulldozers for more than a few minutes.

The airport won planning permission for the 3,050-metre runway after a 101-day public inquiry in 1995. It claims the expansion will create 50,000 jobs and boost capacity from 15 million to 30 million passengers by 2005.

Graham Stringer, Labour MP for Manchester, Blackley and chairman of Manchester Airport, has little time for the protesters' arguments or tactics, and puts them in the same social group as their local helpers.

"They are unrepresentative

hypocrites who are damaging the environment they claim to protect and damaging the prospects of unemployed people," he said. "They should go back to their comfortable middle-class homes in the South. They come from the same part of the political spectrum as fascists."

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aboriginal seeks the head of ancestor

An Aboriginal politician is due to meet the Home Secretary Jack Straw this week to seek the return of the head of an ancestor buried on Merseyside. Yagan, a renowned tribal leader, was murdered in 1833. His preserved head came into the possession of Liverpool Museum, which recommended its disposal in 1964. It was buried in Everton Cemetery and now lies beneath the graves of 20 still-born babies. Ken Colbung, who arrives from Australia tomorrow, also hopes to meet the babies' families.

Veterans ditch

Two German men aged 69 and 72 ditched their motorised glider at St Margaret's Bay, near Dover. The two had been attempting to fly to Lydd airport from Calais with seven similar planes when they became lost in fog. Only one reached Lydd.

Soldiers die in car

Three British soldiers were killed when their car collided with a truck on a busy road in southeast Cyprus. Witnesses said that the car came to rest in a field, trapping all three. The accident happened at lunchtime. The men, based at Dhekelia, were not named.

Palace by phone

Buckingham Palace has introduced a telephone line for members of the public visiting over the summer to book their tickets by credit card. Visitors can make a booking by dialling 0171-321 2233. The State Apartments open on August 8.

Plastic deterrent

Plastic road signs are being put up in Nottinghamshire because aluminium signs have been stolen since a sharp increase in the metal's scrap value. The thefts, sometimes by the van-load, have cost the county council thousands of pounds.

REASONS

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JAGUAR
DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.

Because it's there (and nobody knew it was)



By DANIEL MCGRORY

A BRITISH climber plans to be the first to scale a peak in Tibet that nobody in the West knew existed. John Town believes that at 23,124 ft, Jomo Gangtse — "Mother of Snow Hill" — is the highest unclimbed mountain in the world.

He "found" the peak by chance while poring over satellite maps in the archives of the Royal Geographical Society. Mr Town, 44, noticed the 7,048-metre peak jutting above a range that neither explorers nor climbers had heard of.

"I stared at it several times, turned the map upside down until I was sure," he said. "It's like an astronomer finding a new star, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But the advantage for a mountaineer is that we can reach our discovery."

Mr Town, who is the Academic Secretary for Bradford University, has been given permission by China to lead a British expedition



nothing new to discover about them," Mr Town said. "It is thought that there are 400 peaks that rise above 7,000 m and all are in Central Asia but only a handful appear on the Tibetan plateau."

The other members of the expedition will be Richard Wojtaszewski, 32, his wife Alyson Starling, 33, Huw Davies, 33, and Tony Ward, 29. None has climbed such a high peak before.

Jomo Gangtse lies at the southern end of the Nyanchen Tangla range at its junction with the 600-mile long Gangdise chain, a day's drive from the capital, Lhasa. Mr Town is relying on Chinese maps to guide him, many of which date from the past century. Most were compiled by Indian travellers, known as Pundits, who dared not spend much time calculating heights accurately. They surveyed the area for the Raj in the 19th century, disguising themselves as local people and their instruments as religious artefacts for fear of being captured.

Mr Town, from Ilkley, west Yorkshire, who is married with two children, said: "It's thrilling to think old Jomo has been there for thousands of years and no one knew it. The Chinese are still very secretive about it all but there is no doubt they have had help from American satellite technology, so we are sure we won't find it is a mountain mirage."

John Town will lead an expedition to Tibet's Jomo Gangtse mountain, previously unknown to the West. He believes it is the world's highest unclimbed peak.

to make the first attempt to climb Jomo Gangtse in July. "There is a race on. The Japanese are furious we found it and unless we climb it at our first attempt, then you can be sure they will be right behind us."

The Chinese authorities confirmed the existence of Jomo

Gangtse on a 1989 military map after charting the remote Tibetan plateau with the help of American satellite technology. Previously the peak had been mistaken for a much smaller neighbour.

The Chinese are still very sensitive and secretive about this area and we climbers are not

meant to see such detailed maps," Mr Town said. "This is still such a mystery mountain in that there are only satellite images of it and no photo. We won't know what it looks like or the best way to climb it until we get there."

His expedition will begin its journey on yak and will have just a

month to discover a route across a glacier to the upper snow slopes and then to complete its climb to the summit. "The money will run out after that and none of us can get any more time off work," Mr Town said. "The weather will not be at its best but we cannot delay any longer or somebody else will

beat us to it." He expects the expedition to cost £23,000 but so far only half the money has been raised.

There are 14 peaks, including Everest, that are more than 8,000 m high. "The trouble is they have all been surveyed and climbed so many times there is



Polar women were down to their last bar of chocolate

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MEMBER of the first all-women expedition to the North Pole described last night how her team was marooned for six days on a drifting ice pack with dwindling supplies.

Rosie Clayton-Stancer and her three colleagues had only a little chocolate left when an aircraft braved the deteriorating conditions to rescue them.

Ms Clayton-Stancer, 35, was on the fourth leg of the McVitie's Penguin Polar Relay with Andre Chadwick, 32, Sarah Jones, 28, and Juliette May, 33. The rescue plane set down the fifth and final year, which must move quickly to cover the last 110 nautical miles to the Pole before the thaw starts early next month.

Penguin Delta, the fourth team, had made good time covering 125 miles in 18 days, but the women were left stranded when severe weather set in after they had established camp to wait for the chopper.

Speaking yesterday from base camp at Cornwallis Island, in the Northwest Territories of Canada, Ms Clayton-Stancer said: "It was a real test of endurance. It was very tense, cold and hungry. We had found a decent spot to camp until a plane could find

us but the weather was so bad no one could reach us.

"We had been on half-rations for a few days. By the end we had only a few bits of chocolate left. We talked about food a lot. It took a lot of attitude but we really worked as a team. We kept ourselves active, clearing the landing-strip and keeping all our equipment in order."

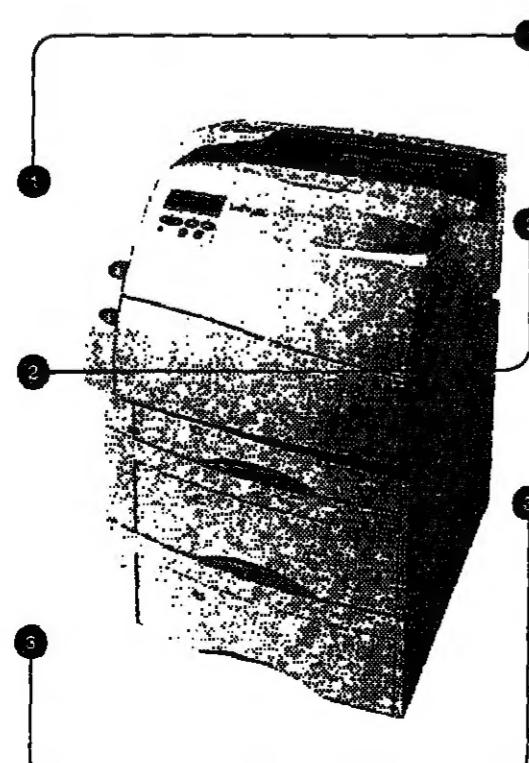
Temperatures were about -20C. The team's main fear was that the ice beneath them would crack up. "It was also hard because we would have a radio call saying a plane was coming and then they would radio back to say the weather had deteriorated and they couldn't come."

"After a while we were hallucinating, thinking the wind was a plane overhead," Ms Clayton-Stancer, a great-niece of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, said.

The final team, which hopes to plant the Union Jack at the North Pole, is made up of Zoe Hudson, Lucy Roberts, Poin Oliver and Caroline Hamilton, expedition leader.

The expedition has so far covered 350 miles. The 20 women taking part were selected last September from 150 hopefuls during a weekend on Dartmoor.

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Spaghetti and roast beef honour mission to the heathen English

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FIFTY pilgrims braved no greater danger than Italian drivers yesterday as they left Rome in honour of the Italian who braved English heathens. A journey to retrace the steps of St Augustine began with the atmosphere of a jolly coach outing, and a lunch menu combining spaghetti al pesto with roast beef.

St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, took a year to reach Britain after he was sent by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons 1,400 years ago. The fifty ecclesiastical volunteers in Pilgrims' Way 1997 will take a week to reach Pegwell Bay, the saint's reputed landing site in the AD 597.

They will link up with other pilgrims marking the death in the same year of St Columba of Iona, the Irish apostle of Scotland.

The 1997 pilgrims left Rome for Assisi, their first stop, in the red and cream livery of

East Kent Coaches, driven by Michael Denne, respondent in Stagecoach tie and blazer. He said: "Italian drivers are quite something, but I'll manage. I volunteered for this. It's what you might call an unusual job."

The group is predominantly Anglican but also includes Roman Catholics, Methodists, American Episcopalians, Lutherans and followers of the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church. Many are retired or near retirement; all believe in Anglican-Roman Catholic rapprochement. The youngest is Anthony Cross, 18, the son of a clergyman from Inklawarrow, in Worcestershire.

The pilgrims have been given an extra copy of St Mark's Gospel to hand to someone along the way through Italy and France. "Unfortunately it's in English," the Bishop said, "but we will get the message across."

The Dean of Norwich, the Very Reverend Stephen Platten, who had the idea for the pilgrimage in 1990 and helped to organise it, said it was not even certain how St Augustine had made the original journey.

"Some think he went to Ostia and took a boat to France to avoid the mountains of northern Italy. But we wanted to visit some of the great centres of Christianity which were certainly part of later pilgrim routes, such as Assisi and Florence".

Ostia is now a bathing resort. The nearest port is at Civitavecchia, from where the ferries head south to Sardinia rather than north to France.

At Pegwell Bay, near Ramsgate, the travellers will be met

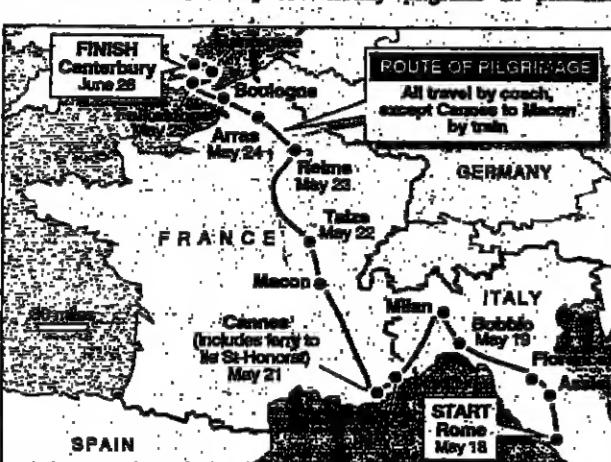
by Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal Basil Hume, who in a gesture of ecumenism will walk with the pilgrims to Ebbsfleet Cross, the traditional site of St Augustine's landing, followed

by a service of thanksgiving at Canterbury Cathedral.

At a service at the church of San Gregorio on the Celio Hill in Rome — which still contains the marble throne in which Pope Gregory sat when despatching St Augustine to Britain — the prior Father Innocenzo Gargano, reminded the pilgrims that Pope Gregory had told St Augustine "not to be deterred by the troubles of the journey or what men say. It is better not to undertake a high enterprise at all than to abandon it once begun."

Grace Davie, senior lecturer in sociology at Exeter University, issues a warning that regular church attendance was now a minority pursuit in Britain and resistance to unorthodox New Age beliefs was declining.

Keeping the Faiths, Demos (9 Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP. Telephone 0171-353 4479; £8)



American Bible belt forecasts devilish future for European Union

By RUTH GLADWELL

AMERICAN Christian fundamentalists view the European Union as a satanic grouping, according to a paper published today by the centre-left think tank Demos. They see the EU as the revived Roman empire foretold in Revelation, which will be dominated by the Antichrist. Nearly

a third of Americans hold such apocalyptic views, which are probably already influencing government policy, Karen Armstrong, the religious author and former nun, says. No government should ignore the large 'born-again' Christian lobby, she adds in *Demos Quarterly*.

Miss Armstrong says born-again Christian fundamentalists have long

regarded the United Nations as a satanic body. "They are passionately pro-Israel, for example, because the Bible teaches them that unless the Jews are in control of their Holy Land, Jesus cannot return."

The fundamentalist movement in America was in eclipse, discredited by the scandalous behaviour of some of the leading television evangelists,

but was likely to revive. Although evangelical churches were growing in Britain at the expense of the liberal wing, she says, fundamentalism was unlikely to take hold, because religion in Britain was identified with the Establishment, and research showed that fewer British than American people believed in God.

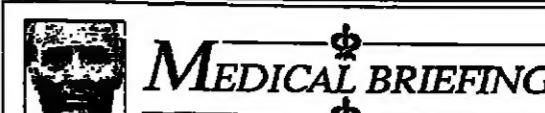
Writing in the same publication,

Innocenzo Gargano, reminded the pilgrims that Pope Gregory had told St Augustine "not to be deterred by the troubles of the journey or what men say. It is better not to undertake a high enterprise at all than to abandon it once begun."

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Policewomen deserve fitting body armour



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

DESPITE the repeated reassurances of doctors, most women have a deeply ingrained fear that injury to their breasts could lead to cancer. There will therefore be no lack of sympathy for the women police officers who object to wearing body armour that painfully constricts their breasts and which creates friction when they take part in physical exercise.

The skin of the breasts and the nipples is always sensitive, and presumably particularly vulnerable to damage when damp from the sweat engendered by exertion coupled with anxiety. In some instances the skin has become chronically inflamed by pressure from the armoured waistcoats.

Experience gathered over many generations has shown that a blow to the breast does not produce cancer. It can, and frequently does, result in a haematoma, a hard lump formed from a collection of blood in the breast tissue. Very wisely, the woman, when she finds the lump, immediately sees her doctor. Occasionally, when examining her breasts, the doctor may find another lump which is malignant. Even in the absence of a haematoma after a breast injury, the blow will prompt a woman to feel her breasts; where, by chance, she may find cancerous lumps.

The association between breast injuries and an increased incidence of malignant tumours is therefore thought to be entirely the result of medical surveillance that picks up cancers if nothing else.

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New Labour offers a recipe for Conservative resurgence

THE Conservative Party urgently needs a new, democratic constitution. This is not simply a matter of internal party organisation — it goes to the heart of the challenge facing the party.

The fundamental reason for the general election defeat was that the Conservative government had lost contact with Conservative supporters. They no longer felt it was their government.

If the Conservative coalition is to be rebuilt, its supporters must be re-engaged. They must feel that the rebuilding project is important, and that they are part of it.

The basic structure of the Conservative organisation has remained substantially

unchanged since the days of Benjamin Disraeli. Its institutions are hollowed by history but they do not provide the essentials of a modern political party. The relationships between the different parts of the organisation are unclear and lines of responsibility are confused.

Furthermore, individual membership of the party has been declining. In recent years we have seemed more interested in talking to ourselves than in talking to our supporters, so we should not be surprised if they have decided that the feeling is mutual.

The rebuilding of the party must begin with rebuilding the individual membership.

Conservative ideas represent a majority viewpoint in Britain; the Conservative Party must become their mouthpiece once again.

That expansion of membership will happen only if the party makes clear its determination to engage those new members in key decisions of the party. The deferential relationship between party members and parliamentarians that worked in the age of Disraeli will not work in the 21st century.

We therefore need an immediate constitutional review to ensure that we have a modern and accountable party structure. If I am elected leader I shall establish such a review, which will report by

the end of this year. A new constitution, based on the recommendations of the review, will be put to the Central Council meeting next March.

The central purpose of the new constitution must be to rebuild the Conservative Party as a cohesive political force on the centre-right of British politics. The party must be open and inclusive; its

strength will be determined by the size of its individual membership.

A party whose strength lies in its membership cannot continue to exclude them from the question of who leads it. The new constitution must therefore include provision for an electoral college to elect the party leader, with a significant portion of the votes cast in the membership of

the party on the basis of one member, one vote. MPs should continue to be the majority voice in the electoral college but the leader must be seen to be answerable to the party both inside and outside Parliament.

The new constitution must also include provision for the leader's mandate to be renewed at the beginning of each session of Parliament.

As leader I would therefore be subject to re-election in November 1998.

Party members want a voice in leadership elections but they want other important changes too. They want to see that the Conservative Party not only has the right ideas but that it is an effective

instrument for carrying them into government. They want to see that the party has the means to enforce among its members the minimum standards of discipline that are necessary to make it an effective political force. No one wants to stifle legitimate debate but a party that wishes to win and retain power must be able to distinguish between debate and sabotage.

We also need to recognise that Central Office has not matched the campaigning skills of Millbank Tower. Members want to see the party equip itself with tools that are equal to the task.

I have made it a principle not to comment on the rules under which the leadership

is being held. The reason is obvious: any candidate expressing an opinion about the rules invites suspicion that he is trying to change them to his advantage.

I do believe, however, that constitutional change is an important priority for the next leader of the party and that time is not on our side. We need to move fast so that the party can quickly start to use its new structure for the purpose for which it is intended.

A short period of internal housekeeping can make an important difference to the effectiveness of the party: a prolonged period of navel gazing would do still further damage.

Change in rules will be too late for leadership contest

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday dismissed proposals to give Tory constituency chairmen a vote in choosing the party leader in time for next month's election.

Senior party figures, including Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, are backing a plan to allow party activists a greater role. Although Mr Clarke favours changing the rules to allow constituency members a bigger say, he does not think that can be done in time for the current contest, expected to start on June 10.

Robin Hodgson, chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, is due to present the proposals formally to Dr Mawhinney this week. Under the scheme, party activists would have 20 per cent of the vote with the rest going to MPs. At present, only MPs vote in leadership elections although they are supposed to consult local parties.

The plan would allow constituency chairmen to cast their vote in a telephone ballot after local consultations. Mr Hodgson said yesterday that chairmen could be given PIN numbers in time for the ballot.

Mr Clarke, who is thought to be gaining support among MPs, said yesterday that he did not favour giving constituency chairmen a say this time, though he would support reform in the longer term.

"I understand the agitation outside. I'm not sure that all the franchises being suggested — that every chairman of the Conservative association should have a vote — is the ideal solution, but they certainly should be consulted."

While most of the six Tory leadership candidates argue that it would be difficult to change the rules in time, there is growing concern within the party that the decision will be taken by only 164 surviving Tory MPs, leaving most constituencies without a voice.

Any change would have to be agreed by the backbench 1922 Committee of Tory MPs, which meets this Wednesday to elect a chairman to replace Sir Marcus Fox, who lost his seat at the election. The candidates include John MacGregor, Sir Archie Hamilton, John Butterfield, John Townend and Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith.

The new chairman will then announce the dates for the

leadership contest. It is now expected that the first ballot will be on June 10, the second on June 17 and — if necessary — the third on June 19.

Stephen Dorrell yesterday outlined an ambitious plan to introduce one member, one vote into leadership elections. He pledged that he would seek re-election under the new rules in November 1998, if he was chosen as leader next month. Aides said that his plan involved scrapping the electoral college altogether and giving each party member the same right as MPs.

William Hague said last week that he would seek an immediate mandate from the party within weeks of being elected by MPs. Peter Lilley has also backed widespread reform, including drawing up a register of the 500,000 or so party members. But John Redwood yesterday dismissed the pledges by Mr Hague and Mr Dorrell to put themselves up for re-election.

"I think that once the party has decided how we should run the election, then the verdict has to stand," he said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Sir Christopher Benson, Edward Lister, both of the Funding Agency for Schools; Howard Davies, of the Bank; Sir Christopher Bland, of the BBC

Tory appointments face uncertain future

Cabinet Office ministers are scrutinising the leadership of quangos, Valerie Elliott writes

MINISTERS at the Cabinet Office have ordered a review of appointments to quangos and other public bodies, including a check on 'Tory placements'. They are seeking ideas on how to make such bodies more accountable.

It is hoped that some individuals will volunteer to step down to avoid confrontation. In other cases, people may in any case be removed from their term of office. Sir Tim Chessells, chairman of the Legal Aid Board, an accountant, is expected to stand down when his term ends next year and hand over to his deputy, the leading solicitor Henry Hodge, husband of the Labour MP Margaret Hodge.

One government insider said last night: "We are not going to go for wholesale sackings but we will be watching certain people very closely. If someone starts using their job as a

base to criticise the Government or score political points then he would have to go."

Lord Blyth, chairman of Boots Plc, has already stepped down as head of the Prime Minister's Advisory Panel on the Citizen's Charter, a post he held for six years. He indicated that to Mr Major before the election that the view in Whitehall was that he "could see the writing on the wall".

The independent-minded Howard Davies was appointed deputy governor of the Bank of England in 1995 on merit, not because of political allegiance. Even he is understood to be feeling vulnerable after the new Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced that he was to appoint a second deputy governor. Mr Davies might soon find it rather crowded at the top of the Bank.

The chairman of the Funding Agency for Schools, Sir Christopher Benson, who is the Tory-supporting chairman of Sun Alliance, and his colleagues on the agency's committee — the prominent Conservative businessman Sir Stanley Kalms, Sir Robert Balchin, and Edward Lister, the Tory leader of Wandsworth council, are also likely to be replaced when their contracts come up in September.

It is thought that Lord Rothschild, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, will also go when his term ends next March. Nor might there be a long-term future at the Arts Council for its chairman, who has 18 months left to serve. The Earl of Gowrie, who was an Arts Minister under Margaret Thatcher.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, has only done a year of a five-year term. At the

time of the appointment Tony Blair sought the right of veto on the final choice. John Major denied him that and there may be a score to settle.

Lord St John of Bawsey, who heads the Royal Fine Art Commission and is another former Conservative Arts Minister, was said by a supporter to be very expert in this field and will probably hang on.

When he was an opposition backbencher, Peter Kilfoyle — now the junior Public Service Minister under David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster — campaigned to find out the names and backgrounds of people appointed to quangos, filing many questions to Tory ministers.

Mr Kilfoyle wants any remaining quangos to be fully accountable to Parliament and an annual report on the activities of each quango to be published.

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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 19 1997

HOME NEWS 9

Private head teachers aim to keep 'social mix' when Government scraps assisted places

Girls' schools plan £70m rescue fund for poorer pupils

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LEADING independent girls schools are planning to announce a £70-million scheme to save all 3,000 of their assisted places for pupils from poorer families after government subsidies are scrapped.

The 24 members of the Girls' Public Day School Trust — which include Bath, Portsmouth and South Hampstead High Schools — said they would introduce their own bursaries. In a separate move, the two Haberdashers' Schools in Monmouth have announced their own scheme to meet the £1 million cost of their own 212 assisted places.

The new Labour Government has said that it intends to phase out the Assisted Places Scheme, which provides a state subsidy of £130 million for 34,000 children attending fee-paying schools. The money is to be used instead to reduce the class sizes in infants schools.

Some critics say the change could make some private schools more elitist by reducing the variety of backgrounds



William Jones provided for a 'free school'?

that the assisted places have helped to provide.

The independent schools said yesterday that their rescue schemes were an exception and the vast majority of subsidised places would be lost, changing the character of many such institutions.

Tim Haynes, headmaster of Monmouth School, said that it would cost £1 million a year to

confirm that it could afford to pay £2 million next year for the 450 assisted places offered annually at its schools.

The trust began planning in earnest to reorganise its assisted places in 1990, fearing that they would be scrapped if Labour won the 1992 election.

Michael Oakley, secretary of the trust, said further details would be announced when the Government published its Bill phasing out the scheme. He added: "We could fill these places with fee-payers but the trust has always been committed to making its schools accessible to bright girls from families who otherwise could not afford it."

"We do not want to turn our schools into schools which are only for the relatively wealthy. A lot of our fee-paying parents prefer our type of school where their daughters will mix with a good cross-section of the community."

Mr Haynes said: "Trustees are very conscious that this is in line with the founder's



Tim Haynes says the education offered by Monmouth School should be open to children of all backgrounds

replaces the assisted places at his boys' school and the Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls.

A fund of £42 million had been raised by selling property left to them in 1615 by the founder, William Jones, a liveryman of the Haberdashers' Company.

Mr Haynes said: "Trustees are very conscious that this is in line with the founder's

original intention. We don't want to see these schools become socially or economically exclusive."

Jones left £9,000 in his will, dated December 1614, to found a "free school" for Monmouth.

Mr Haynes added: "We have a very good education to offer and we think it should be open to children of all backgrounds. "We are educating children for the rest of their lives. They

are going to be living and working alongside people of all backgrounds and they should be educated alongside people from all backgrounds to learn toleration and how to work together."

Chris Parker, head master of Nottingham High School, and chairman of the assisted places committee for the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that

schools could not afford to replace the "vast majority" of places.

Nottingham High hopes to provide ten places a year to replace its 40 assisted places.

"I would say that we are doing far more than most," he said.

"It seems a complete paradox that something Labour is doing is making schools more elite, which is surely the last thing that they want."

STUDENTS are opting out of the race for a job despite a resurgence in the graduate employment market, according to research sponsored by *The Times*, which shows more than a quarter are heading towards finals with no plans for work.

One final-year student in six at 24 leading universities planned to take time off after graduation, usually to travel. One in nine had no definite plans three months before examinations began.

The research, published yesterday, surprised careers experts because it coincides with a 12 per cent rise in vacancies for graduates. The new openings were expected to trigger a rush of applications from students who have seen their predecessors struggling to find work.

In fact, fewer final-year undergraduates than last year expect to take up a permanent post after graduation. The survey, by High Fliers Research, shows that only 26 per cent expected a graduate job.

Marin Birchall, the survey director, said: "It seems that some students have picked up the message that there are more jobs about, so they can afford to sit back and concentrate on their finals. If that is the case, they are very misguided and could be in for a shock. There may be more jobs about but there are also more graduates."

More than 12,000 students, covering most leading universities, were interviewed for the report. They had realistic expectations of starting salaries: the average of £14,400 is close to firms' predictions of this year's national average.

Good University Guide, pages 40 and 41

Education ministers warned against 'quick-fix' plans

By DAVID CHARTER

SCHOOLS that have been failing for a long time yesterday warned the Government against disrupting their plans for recovery with attempts at quick-fix solutions.

Ministers are to announce action plans tomorrow for a number of failing schools it believes are making unacceptably slow progress. Today *The Times* names the 38 schools initially inspected two or more years ago, which have still not improved sufficiently to come off the critical list. About 2 per cent of all schools are classed by Ofsted as failing, the schools inspectorate, as failing and needing "special measures".

Representatives of some of the schools that have been on the list the longest have warned the Government not to jeopardise progress made in the past two years for the sake of making an example of some struggling schools. Norfolk, for

example, has three of the schools classed as failing for more than two years.

Michael Edwards, Norfolk's chief education officer, said that they all needed substantial changes of staff, something that could not be done quickly.

"It takes time to appoint new staff and for them to make their mark in improving the school," Mr Edwards said. "You cannot change a school by some laser surgery; it has to be a more constructive operation than that and requires a lot of patience."

Labour will have to wait for legislation before it can impose its "Fresh Start" plans, which involve temporarily closing the school and re-opening it with new staff. However, it can ask authorities to send in expert teachers to revive a school.

Mr Edwards said: "We would find it difficult to believe, in the case

of these three schools, that any instant change of governorship or management would actually succeed in moving them off the list because progress has already been made. Frankly, it would be far better to leave the existing team to do it."

Battersea Technology College, in the London Borough of Wandsworth, was first inspected in December 1993 and has been failing longer

FAILING SCHOOLS

Battersea Technology College, Wandsworth
Lilian Baylis School, Lambeth
St Richard of Chichester School, Camden
St Stephen's C of E Primary School, Lambeth
Rough Hay Primary School, Darlington, Walsall
Rockwood Primary School, Thetford, Norfolk
Albrey Primary School, Thetford, Norfolk
Monkside Primary School, Hackney
The Langham School, Haringey
St Joseph's Academy, Lewisham
Fred Nicholson Special School, Dersham, Norfolk
Les County First School, Slough, Berkshire
Pinewood County Primary School, Stoke-on-Trent
Geoffrey Chaucer Comprehensive School, Southwark
Uppottery Primary School, Upton, Devon
Shaw Park Primary School, Hull
William Penn School, now Dulwich High, Dulwich
Rams Episcopcal Primary School, Hackney
Weavers Fields (Special) School, Tower Hamlets

Upbury Manor GM School, Gillingham
Westgate Community College, Newcastle
Southgate Primary School, Newcastle
Hendsworth Wood Boys' School, Birmingham
The Pupil Referral Unit, Brent
St Hugh's GM High School, Grantham
Mary Lwodow School, Leicester
Bulford Hall Primary School, Salisbury
Fryerns School, Basildon
Southfields GM School, Gravesend
Little Ilford School, Newham
Ingram High School for Boys, Thornton Heath
St Joseph's RC Junior School, Waltham Forest
Park Lane Primary School, Wembley
Holyfield Primary School, Wednesbury, Sandwell
Gainsborough Primary School, Newham
Kinghurst Junior School, Kinghurst, Solihull
Forest Comprehensive School, Nottingham

staff. "We are only at the end of our first year of having a brand new team in. It just takes a heck of a long time," Mr Cole said. "The easy thing to do would have been to close it down but that would not have helped the children because they are not other schools in the Battersea area to take them. A fresh start was effectively what we did."

The list of failing schools includes Dulwich High School for Boys in Southwark — the school that Harry Harman, now Social Security Secretary, avoided by sending her son to a grammar school elsewhere.

Rough Hay Primary School in Darlaston, Walsall, is also near the top of the list of schools that have been failing over the long term. Humphrey Smith, chief education services officer in Walsall, said: "We are of the view that significant progress has been made but there is not a universal magic formula for turning these schools around."

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مكتبة من الأصل

Kabila's forces exert iron grip on Zairean capital after downfall of despot Mobutu

Civilians of Kinshasa hail their new masters

FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

IN THE space of a weekend, everything has changed and changed utterly. The country known as Zaire since 1971 is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The rebels, who on Thursday marched into the capital, Kinshasa, are no longer guerrillas but liberators. Laurent Kabila, their leader, is the new head of state and President Mobutu, the reclusive dictator of 32 years, is believed to have sought refuge in his northern ancestral home of Gbadolite.

The inhabitants of Kinshasa were ecstatic as thousands of Mr Kabila's fighters advanced through the streets yesterday and consolidated their hold on the city. Wearing white headbands, people lined the roadside and danced in jubilation. "We are liberated, we are liberated," they shouted. "Vive Kabila!"

The invading soldiers had by yesterday morning taken Camp Tshashi, the final stronghold of the defeated Zairean Army, and were mopping up the last isolated pockets of resistance. Mr Mobutu's palatial residence had also fallen, and a commander was racing around in the open-top jeep from which the disgraced tyrant had fled, waving to the people.

Inside the palace, looters seized the passport and cosmetics of Bobi Mobutu, the deposed President's wife, and drugs for the treatment of his cancer, but there was little left. By last night isolated incidents of revenge and killing involving looters had left 177 dead, according to the Red Cross. There was widespread looting in the smaller suburbs around Mr Mobutu's

We looted everything. Mobutu was a thief. These things belong to us.

residence but the mood was one of celebration rather than of panic.

Gunfire had again sounded around the city on Saturday night but by yesterday morning only occasional bursts of shooting could be heard as the new rulers fired in the air, trying to control the more exuberant excesses of the populace. "I'm tired but I'm happy," said one soldier carrying a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. "We've fought and we've come a long way."

The fighters who yesterday crossed the city in the direction of Camp Tshashi, said they were 4,500 strong. They had come down the Congo River overnight by barge from the interior and were reinforcing the advance units which had entered the capital on Saturday from the east. Diplomatic sources estimate the force

Kinshasa captured Kinshasa at 10,000. They are well-armed with mortars, light machine-guns and anti-tank weapons in addition to Kalashnikovs. Asked where he came from, one soldier said: "Uganda." Another, spoke in Kinyarwanda, the language of Rwanda. "We're from this country, Rwanda and Uganda," said another, countering claims by Zaire's eastern neighbours that they have not been involved in the civil war. "I hope you're not from France." France supports Mobutu. "We don't want Zaire people in this country."

In the seven months since they ousted their insatiable master, the remote east of the country, the fighters of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-



A soldier of Laurent Kabila's forces guards troops of the Zairean Special Presidential Division at the Kokolo camp in Kinshasa yesterday after their surrender

have crossed 1,000 miles of bush and jungle.

They have driven the demoralised Zairean armed forces in disarray before them. There has been little engagement apart from rare occasions on which Angolan, Serb and other mercenaries have made a stand against the advancing troops.

As the lines of soldiers moved through Embassy Row, residents came out with bottles of water and packets of breakfast cereal for the troops.

Having assassinated the army chief, General Mahele Bolunga, at the approach of the rebels on Friday night, the elite Special Presidential Division failed to put up the fight that some had feared.

Western diplomats said that

some score-settling by the new rulers was inevitable in the days ahead. "We haven't slept all night," said an older soldier yesterday morning. "But I've got to keep the men moving. The younger ones are tired but we're not finished yet. We're still looking for our enemy. A lot of them have kept their guns and are in their homes in civilian clothes."

The truth is that the most sought-after and high-ranking government soldiers — men such as Kongoli Mobutu, the ousted President's son — have fled across the river into Brazzaville, in neighbouring Congo. Control of Camp Tshashi was secured with little difficulty. Along the roadside near the military base, the conquering soldiers lounged,

weary but evidently flushed with triumph and enjoying some small spoils of their victory. Most of them had entered Kinshasa with their weapons as their only possessions. Some of them had marched in barefoot. All were hungry and thirsty.

Now they found themselves in the well-to-do Mont Ngaliema district, surrounded by the overthrown government troops, discarding their own ragged and sweat-stained fatigues.

But the greatest prizes seemed to be the smart army boots that they had found in Camp Tshashi.

Civilians streamed down the hill from the military camp, bearing their plunder aloft: chairs, telephones, computer keyboards, office files, whatever they had been able

to lay their hands on before Mr Kabila's troops had sealed it off. One young man carried a tumble dryer perched on his head.

"We looted everything," rejoiced a teenager. "Mobutu was a thief, he took everything from this country. These things belong to us."

One group tried on uniforms belonging to the overthrown government troops, discarding their own ragged and sweat-stained fatigues.

But in a government building, a crowd of chanting men ripped a portrait of Mr Mobutu from the wall and smashed it against a desk, as others ran about ransacking the offices.

In another part of town, the troops glutted themselves on bottles of wine and beer taken from the residence of Likula Bolongo, the former Prime Minister, who has been evacuated by France. Tins of meat and vegetables were prised

open and poured down ravenous throats. "I don't have the words to explain how I feel," said one fighter in a Rwandan army uniform. "We've chased out Mobutu and liberated the country."

"Already the new flag of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with seven stars on a blue background, has started to flutter about the capital."

Responding to a call by Mr Kabila, thousands of former government troops presented themselves yesterday at designated assembly points to turn over their weapons.

A transitional "government of public salvation" is to be established by tomorrow and a multiparty constituent assembly in two months. Elections are due to be held within two years.

Victor must move swiftly to build broad regime

BY SAM KILB
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

TAKING over a country the size of Western Europe in seven months was due to his use of Tutsi shock troops from Uganda and Rwanda, and the nationwide disgust with the regime of President Mobutu. Now Mr Kabila, the self-appointed new President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), faces the Herculean task of legitimising a new administration before his Government begins to appear as an occupation force.

One of the first rebel soldiers to enter Kinshasa and take over the Voice of Zaire radio station at the weekend did just that: he had come a long way, he had come from Uganda. At least a third of the guerrillas, snaking through the capital yesterday, were unmistakably Tutsi, tall and mainly English-speaking — former members of the Ugandan and Rwandan armies.

Yesterday most residents of Zaire's capital were delighted that Mr Mobutu and his family had fled after 32 years of dictatorship. However, it will not be long before they take off the white head bands, which signal support for Mr Kabila's rebels, and begin to question whether they have swapped a local despot for a Ugandan viceroy.

Ghislain Demofre, a Kabila representative, said he hoped other European countries, including Austria, France and Germany, would follow the Swiss example. A legal request to block Mr Mobutu's French assets in cluding his villa on the Riviera, was expected within days. France already promised immunity for Mr Mobutu, which is a rather unusual approach by the current Government, he said.

Swiss bankers think that most of the alleged Mobutu fortune has left Switzerland, possibly including Thabo Mbeki,

His potential weakness lies in having relied on foreign soldiers as the sharp end of what became a popular revolution.

A former Marxist and friend of Che Guevara, Mr Kabila has clearly given up the idealism of his youth. Before he took power he had already signed multimillion-dollar contracts with foreign mining companies to exploit Zaire's staggering mineral wealth.

But he may yet be tempted to over-centralise his Government, and rely too heavily on his Tutsi troops to enforce his will on Zaire's 250 ethnic groups. "That would be catastrophic for his regime and for Zaire. People will want more freedoms and a better administration, immediately," a European ambassador in Kinshasa said yesterday.

Mr Kabila, a member of the Luba tribe's offshoot in Shaba province, has enormous personal credibility — he had been fighting the

rebels for 10 years.

But Liechtenstein signalled to its Swiss and Austrian neighbours that the Mobutus would not be welcome.

Representatives of Laurent Kabila in Geneva were preparing to send a formal request for a financial freeze to Liechtenstein. Media reports suggested that Mr Mobutu would visit the small alpine financial haven before moving to France when parliamentary elections end there on June 1.

But Liechtenstein signalled to its Swiss and Austrian neighbours that the Mobutus would not be welcome.

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time to turn over a new page in Franco-African relations." He criticised the French Foreign Ministry for its vain attempts to support Mr Mobutu at a time when his departure was inevitable.

As recently as last month, Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said: "President Mobutu is without doubt the only person capable of guaranteeing Zaire's territorial integrity."

French officials admit that Paris gave

Mr Mobutu a lifeline in 1994 when it enlisted his help in a controversial humanitarian operation in Rwanda. After backing the Hutu regime responsible for the Rwandan massacres, France worked

hand in hand with Mr Mobutu to

establish refugee camps for Hutus fleeing the new Tutsi-led Government in Kigali. Mr Mobutu, an international outcast at the time, was able to claim a measure of respectability as a result.

Paris yesterday avoided commenting on reports that Mr Mobutu plans to settle in France, where he has at least two luxury homes. "We don't have any information concerning the intentions of President Mobutu," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

French influence in Africa has waned as that of the United States has grown.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, said on Saturday: "What's painful is that 20 years ago we solved all

these problems and today everything happens without Europe or France being mentioned."

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BARCLAYS

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FRENCH politicians yesterday sought to duck responsibility for their country's role in Africa as critics denounced France's "outdated and unrealistic" attitude towards the continent.

The fall of President Mobutu has left Paris facing awkward questions about its willingness to prop up almost any regime that is prepared to sustain French influence in Africa.

His reported flight to Morocco comes as France faces fresh embarrassment over the shadowy links between its biggest company, Elf-Aquitaine, and several francophone African states. Jean-Pierre Chevenement, the former Socialist Defence Minister, said yesterday: "It's

gross of interest to receive a Barclays Postal Account application and information pack

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BARCLAYS

Mongolia lives with tainted dream of riches

ROLLERBLADING schoolchildren skim along the concrete of Ulan Bator's Sukhbaatar Square in front of the holly of the former Communist regime — the mausoleum containing the bodies of the country's two official "liberators". Grim-faced Communist leaders once reviewed military parades from the rostrum, as in Moscow.

Now, in the middle of the square, named after the man who first established Communism here in 1921 — and died mysteriously soon afterwards — there is a demonstration by veterans demanding that their small pensions should keep pace with high inflation.

Running round the square are other children, spurred on by a brass band. On the periphery hover dirty, abandoned street children, who sleep underground.

On the west side is the imposing ochre building housing the stock exchange, facing the opera house where *Swan Lake* will play to a sparse audience — few can afford the tickets. The following night will bring Shakespeare in Mongolian: *Romeo and Juliet*. Towering over all this is the monolithic state house, where the Great Hural (parliament) has been dominated by Democrats since their sur-

The trappings of Communism are still to be found in Mongolia's capital, now more like the Gomorrah of the Gobi. James Pringle reports from Ulan Bator



preserve Mongolia's independence from the Soviet Union. Street photographers snap herders and their families from the Gobi or the Western mountains.

Most rural, and many urban, Mongolian men still wear the *del*, a high-collared coat, usually with a trilby hat, and boots with upturned pointed toes, to avoid offending the earth. Girls are just as likely to wear mini-skirts as the feminine version of the *del*. Some can be formidably fashionable.

The Ulan Bator Hotel, a Soviet edifice, is to the east of the square, behind Lenin Park. On previous visits during the 1970s and 1980s, I found it about the only place in the city with edible food and anything resembling a nightspot: a cavernous underground restaurant with an American jukebox on a stage. For a few *tugriks*, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr or Petula Clark would play.

Nor are there any proposals to move the body of Choibalsan, Mongolia's Stalin, who murdered up to 100,000 of his compatriots in the 1930s and 1940s, from the mausoleum. He is regarded, overgenerously in the view of some, as having helped to

As a China-based correspondent visiting Mongolia in



A Mongolian woman in Ulan Bator votes in yesterday's presidential election

the 1970s for some light relief from the Cultural Revolution, I recall sitting there with the then British Ambassador, John Colvin, and his wife, consuming boiled mutton, which seemed the staple.

Our spartan meal was con-

stantly interrupted by young Russian squaddies in uniform, polite but insistent, asking Mrs Colvin to dance. Far from home, she represented an almost impossible glamour for the troops, on furlough from guard duty along the

Chinese border. Nowadays, the Russians are long gone. Nightlife in Ulan Bator, which could loosely be called a sort of Gomorrah of the Gobi, has changed dramatically from the days before 1921, when lamas ruled, and after, when

an outwardly austere form of Communism held sway. One can get in a battered old East German Trabant or Wartburg taxi and trundle off to a casino, where Mongolian high-rollers, mainly traders or cashmere dealers (most of whom drive Mercedes or BMWs), go to relax.

A French bistro, Oscar's, has opened north of the square, and elsewhere there are Japanese and Korean restaurants and an "art café" called the Marisse, with impressionist paintings on the walls, and a clientele of young Mongolian women affecting a bohemian air.

Ulan Bator these days is a late city, and it is pointless going out much before ten to bars like the Elvis Presley, or discos like Top Ten, where there are Russian women and Mongolian girls with dyed blonde hair, dancing the night away. To get into the discos, impoverished young Mongolians pool their funds, sit without a drink when not dancing, then walk home to their austere, often unheated

apartments.

When Mongolia abandoned Marxism in the early 1990s, there was talk of the country joining the "tiger" economies of Asia. Such dreams have not materialised. The word for tiger in Mongolia is "bar".

President fights on reformist agenda

Ulan Bator: Mongolians went to the polls yesterday in a presidential contest seen as a neck-and-neck race between the nation's reformist leader and his challenger from the former Communist Party

So voters arrived on horseback while others walked from their felt tents on the outskirts of the capital. A smiling President Ochirbat cast his ballot and told voters they were making a crucial decision for the once-Communist nation. "The person who is elected will lead us into the next century," said the 55-year-old candidate of the Democratic Union Coalition as he and his wife, Tserkmaa, greeted voters.

His main opponent, Nasagd Bagabandi, 47, of the opposition Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, disbanded for 75 years up to last year, has campaigned for a scaling-down of economic reforms. He has tried to appeal to those who have been left jobless as Mongolia moves from Stalinist central planning to a market economy. (Reuter)

De Klerk heir quits Nationalists to form his own party

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IN A move signalling the biggest shake-up of South African politics since 1994's democratic elections, Roelf Meyer, the heir-apparent of F.W. de Klerk, the former President, resigned from the National Party at the weekend.

He vowed to establish a new opposition capable of breaking the African National Congress's stranglehold on the electorate.

His resignation was prompted by a damaging public fight with Mr de Klerk, which followed the emergence of clear divisions within the party that ruled South Africa between 1948 and 1994. The dispute arose over moves to attract wider support among the majority black electorate.

Mr Meyer told delegates at the party's Gauteng head council meeting in Pretoria on Saturday that he had been "effectively fired" because of differences with those resistant to change and other like-minded moderates are expected to follow his example.

After the mass resignation

of the party's "enlightened" leadership last year, the loss of Mr Meyer, its leading visionary, has stripped the mainly white party of its main hope of attracting significant black support to bolster its 16 per cent poll rating. Mr de Klerk cut a lonely figure at the weekend as he conceded that further resignations from the party are likely and he dismissed the idea that his party had lunched to the right as "a blatant lie".

A showdown in the party leadership was the inevitable conclusion of a power struggle that began last year when Mr de Klerk appointed Mr Meyer as the party's Secretary General.

He was, however, forced to rescind the appointment this year under pressure from Henrus Kriel, the conservative Nationalist Premier of the Western Cape, and Martinus van Schalkwyk, Mr Meyer's rival for the party leadership, both of whom were suspicious of Mr Meyer's publicly stated intention of seeking a new political alignment. His rivals began increasingly to assert themselves and Mr Meyer's position became untenable when he recently rejected a call by Mr de Klerk to cease his talks with other parties.

Mr Meyer, who gained credibility with blacks as the Nationalists' chief negotiator at constitutional talks with the ANC, said at the weekend that he would not be joining another party but would build a new movement to fight for less crime, more jobs, compassion for the poor, and better education and tolerance.

"Those calling for rapid change [in the party] have been rebuffed," Mr Meyer said. "I know this is not the voice of the party."

Arafat begs Clinton to save peace process

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AFTER last week's failure of the second US peace mission to the Middle East inside a month, Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has appealed to President Clinton to intervene personally to save the peace process from total collapse.

"Only your personal, official and immediate intervention will save the process," Mr Arafat wrote to the White House in an emotional letter, some of whose contents were made public here yesterday.

Mr Arafat, who is under growing pressure from Islamic hardliners and radical Palestinian nationalists to abandon what remains of the 1993 peace deal with Israel signed in Washington, also asked Mr Clinton to send Madeleine Albright, his new Secretary of State, on an urgent first mission to the region.

There has been a Palestinian whispering campaign against Dennis Ross, Mr Clinton's special envoy, whom the Palestine Liberation Organisation accuses of being biased towards Israel and unwilling to put pressure on Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to halt work on the new Har Homa settlement in east Jerusalem. Bulldozers working at Har Homa were



Meyer: wants more jobs and better deal for poor



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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 19 1997

Juppé heads for narrow poll win as Left falters

BY ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRANCE'S ruling conservatives were narrowly ahead yesterday as the last opinion polls were published a week before parliamentary elections. They showed that the centre-right coalition of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is likely to retain a majority in the National Assembly, although it is expected to be sharply reduced.

The alliance between the Socialists, Communists and ecologists had gained, and a third of those polled said they might change their minds.

The Right was seen as winning between 300 and 340 seats to the combined Left's 210-250 in surveys of mainland France's 555 constituencies. Conservatives hold most of the other 22 overseas seats after winning 470 seats in a 1993 landslide.

Voters yesterday cast their ballots in French Polynesia, where the polls are held a week in advance because the islands are scattered over a

Pacific Ocean area the size of Europe. The law bans the disclosure of the results before the mainland vote.

The lacklustre campaign has failed to shake the scepticism of voters, who are doubtful that any side can solve the country's record unemployment. The campaign has focused on whether more austerity is needed to allow France to join the single European currency, or whether it may be relaxed to curb the 12.8 per cent unemployment.

Although French law bans opinion polls being published in the week before voting, it does not forbid them from being carried out or published abroad, and the Internet is expected to breach the curb.

According to a survey published yesterday by *Le Journal du Dimanche*, M Chirac's gamble in calling the snap election should pay off. It said the Gaullist-led coalition was unlikely to win a greater share of the vote in next Sunday's

first round than the Socialist-dominated opposition, but would emerge from the second round on June 1 with a parliamentary majority.

In calling the short campaign, M Chirac thought the electorate would be more interested in long weekends, the French football cup final, and the actress Isabelle Adjani, who presided over the Cannes Film Festival, than the political debate. This would thwart Socialist attempts to build up the head of steam needed to overturn the large centre-right majority.

However, he underestimated the extent of the apathy that M Juppé and his Socialist rival, Lionel Jospin, would generate — a miscalculation that leaves him facing a week of doubt.

Analysts say that the extreme-right National Front could benefit from widespread scepticism at the policies proposed by the mainstream political parties.



Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, tries to eliven the lacklustre election campaign near Toulouse yesterday. A week before polling, many voters are still undecided

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

Waigel's touch turns sacred gold to stone

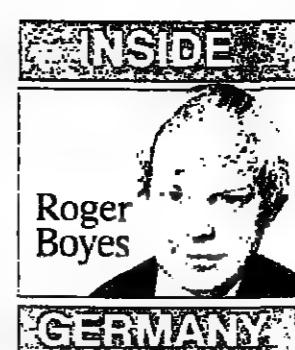
Theo Waigel is a naturally humorous man whose robust wit derives from the hopelessness of his political position. In a tight corner he keeps his head and, as a result, he has also kept his job.

For the past eight years he has presided, as German Finance Minister, over increasingly messy public finances as unification upset all the usual assumptions about budgetary stewardship. The minister soldiered on but as an infantry man, with a backpack and mud up to his knees, rather than a Bavarian hussar.

Herr Waigel claims our sympathy because none of his private or political successes has come easy. He is now happily married to a former skiing champion and has a young son. For years he was locked in a lame, difficult marriage and as a devout Catholic struggled to keep it alive. He is chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), an office that gives him more satisfaction than running the finances of Europe's most powerful nation. But he is constantly at war with Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Premier. The CSU is trying to cling on to its absolute majority — but finds it difficult to do so with an unpopular Finance Minister who threatens to put up petrol tax (hurting Bonn commuters as well as the local car industry) and preaches the euro to sceptical farmers.

Now Herr Waigel is pivotal to the future of the European currency. The forecast of a £6.6 billion shortfall in tax revenue this year was a decisive moment. His normal reaction would have been to launch a new campaign of cuts, curbs and taxes. But he gave in to the temptation for a quick fix and may well have destroyed all public confidence in the euro.

His decision to raise the value of Bundesbank gold reserves has placed him in the role of Wagner's Alberich who takes the virgin Rhinegold to forge it into a ring. Herr Waigel is not stealing the gold — it belongs to the nation not the Bundesbank — but he has touched on something mythical, something fundamental.



His other money-saving or revenue-raising schemes are also unpopular but there are often balm available to soothe wounds. Gold is different. It has been hoarded with the determination of a country transfixed by fear of inflation. Even now many elderly Germans have straps of gold coins hidden at home. The Bundesbank has breathed fire at any politician attempting to touch the rule. Herr Waigel, searching for the first important short cut in his career, has laid his hand on the metal and sooner or later it will turn into stone.

Almost everything the minister has done since flying to Frankfurt last Thursday has come out wrong. His performance in the Bundestag was weak. The argument that the gold was in any case destined for the European Central Bank has confirmed the worst suspicions of the beer drinkers in my overpriced local. There is now an indissoluble link in their minds between the snatched gold, the abandoned mark, a weak euro and a central bank bullied by the French.

We may now be at a turning point. In nine months we will look back and say, yes, that was the moment when the euro crumpled. The connection between the gold grab and the euro is not entirely logical, but this has nothing to do with syllogisms: it is about curses and atavistic fears.

Everybody in Bonn knows that Herr Waigel wants to be Foreign Minister. But Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, will not risk a reshuffle and so Poor Theo is strapped to his euro, for better or for worse.

Concert for peace divides Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE United Nations-sponsored pop concert in Nicosia today, designed to bring young Greek and Turkish Cypriots together after 23 years, has demonstrated just how deeply divided the island remains.

It has met such strident opposition from hardline groups that a third of the UN's 1,200-member peacekeeping force, including most of the British contingent, will police the event at a football stadium in the UN-controlled buffer zone.

Hundreds of Greek Cypriot motorcyclists are planning a protest at a nearby venue. They have put up posters inviting people to "Come and spit at Sakis Rouvas", the young mainland Greek star who will be singing alongside Burak Kui, from Turkey, in what is expected to be the biggest gathering of Greek and Turkish Cypriots since the 1974 Turkish invasion split the island.

Leaflets appeared at the weekend on car windscreens in the Greek Cypriot south warning parents to keep their children at home. "If you want your children to become passive, homosexuals and organs of Turkish anti-Hellenic propaganda send them to the concert." It added that the Grey Wolves, an ultra-right Turkish organisation, had

threatened to "drown the concert in blood", although diplomats said that there had been no such threat.

The leaflet was signed by "Evagoras", the name of an ancient Greek king who introduced the Greek alphabet to Cyprus. Some Turkish Cypriots of press reports have also contributed to the scaremongering, talking of a "Greek Cypriot onslaught at the concert", while a far right group, Turk-Bir, issued a statement calling on its members not to attend.

Surprisingly, most hostility to the event has come from the Greek Cypriot side where the Government has been keen to promote the idea that the two communities can live peacefully together and, along with the powerful Communist Party and left-wing groups, has urged people to attend.

Turkish Cypriots, often prevented by their own authorities from attending bi-communal events, snapped up their allocation of 3,000 free concert tickets last week, but many from the Greek Cypriot side were returned to the UN.

"We know that there is huge interest among Greek Cypriots, but many have been frightened off by scare stories spread by rejectionists from their own side," said a European diplomat.

Arson attack on Pavarotti's Italian estate

Rome: A house on the country estate of Luciano Pavarotti was damaged by fire at the weekend, apparently in an arson attack. (Richard Owen writes.)

Police found the words "This is a warning" scrawled on the walls in red paint, but said it was not clear whether the message was intended for the tenor or an Italian rock musician who is renting the house.

The two-storey pink stucco building is part of a complex at Santa Maria Di Mugnano outside Modena. Signor Pavarotti's home town, which includes his equestrian

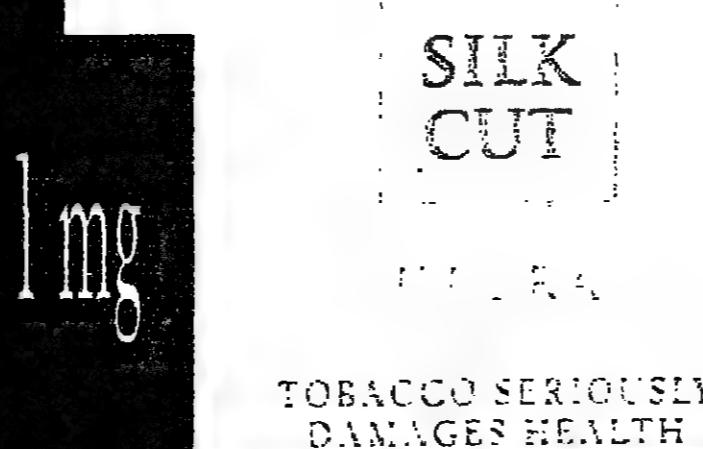


centre and recording studios. The house has been let for the past year to Umberto Maggi, former bass player with the Nomadi, a popular Italian band, and former owner of a record company.

KILLS

ers' Warning
Nicotine

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مكمل من الأصل

Listening to the censor inside our heads

Researchers hope to shed light on the mysteries of the inner voice that allows us to 'talk' to ourselves, says Anjana Ahuja

Imagine arriving at a party and spying an attractive guest across the room. As you snake towards him or her, your brain is rapidly calculating how to make an introduction. In the space of a few steps, a voice inside your head will have dismissed most chat-up lines as too bold, too glib or too clichéd. As a result, the phrase that eventually falls from your lips is likely to be a crafted piece of wordsmanship — concise, sophisticated and socially appropriate for a first meeting.

This is an example of inner speech, a cognitive skill that allows us to 'talk' to ourselves. We all have an inner voice — we 'hear' it when we read prose or poetry; we can employ it to replay earlier arguments or conversations; we depend on it to prevent us from making tactless or witless remarks.

Inner speech is a sparsely studied phenomenon. It must be intimately bound up with concepts of memory, consciousness and language, which provide the focus for much modern scientific research. However, nobody really knows which cognitive processes allow us to 'speak' in our heads and be conscious of it. Now two psychologists from Birmingham University hope to shed light on this mysterious inner voice. Dr Linda Wheeldon and Dr Jane Morgan, from the university's School of Psychology, have been awarded £100,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council to investigate inner speech.

Their three-year study will be firmly rooted in linguistics. Dr Wheeldon contends that inner speech is generated by the same processes that produce normal speech — but the cogs stop somewhere short of the vocal chords. Her reasoning seems sound — the linguistic code we use to speak to ourselves is, in many ways, as rich as that which we use to speak to others. We use the same grammatical rules and syntax, and we can still impose stress and intonation on unspoken words.

It follows that the origins of inner speech should be the same as those for ordinary speech. Cognitive theories about how we speak break the

We can correct slips of the tongue before they come out

process down into four stages. The first thing we do is to decide on a message," says Dr Wheeldon. "For example, if someone asks how your weekend was, and it was awful, you would want to choose how best to convey that sentiment: You might just say 'It was awful', or you might say 'I fed the cat', which also conveys the impression of a dreadful weekend." Once a message has been chosen, the second stage is to 'grammatically encode' it. This means retrieving the appropriate words from a mental store of about 70,000, and arranging them in the right order.

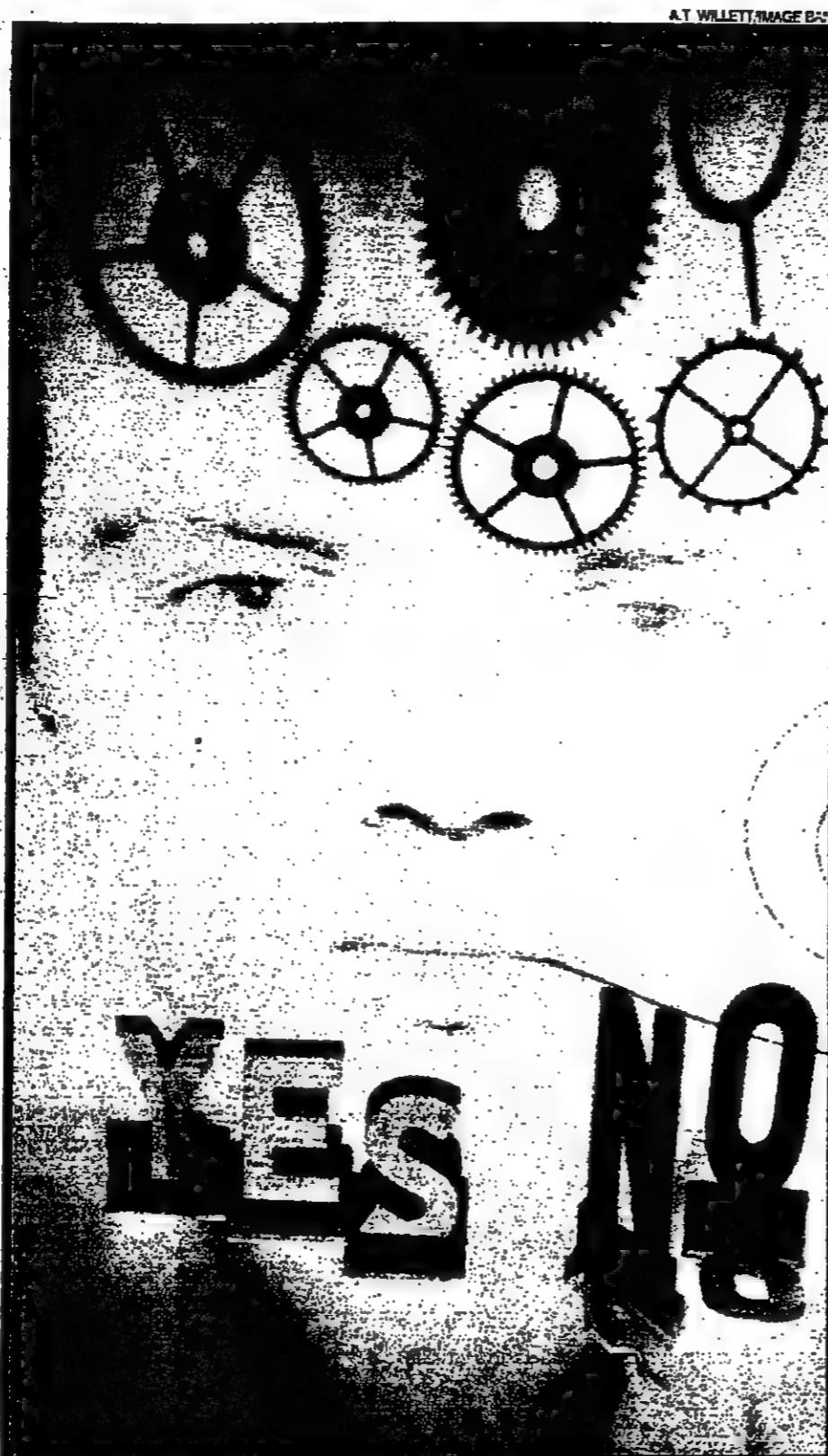
The third stage is to think about the sound of each word. The fourth stage is to instruct muscles to articulate the finished phrase or sentence. Dr Wheeldon thinks that inner speech conforms to this model, but the process is cut off before the last stage of the plan: speaking can be executed.

Dr. Wheeldon hopes to map the time course of this process by getting volunteers to generate and listen to their own internal speech. One experiment will involve flashing up pictures of objects. Volunteer will then be asked to press a button when the object name generated in their head contains a target sound.

For example, if the target sound is a hard 'c', and the volunteers are shown a picture of a candle, they would press the button. They would then be tested for all the other consonant sounds in the word 'candle', such as 'f' and 'd'. By measuring how fast they press the button for each sound, the researchers can work out how quickly volunteers generate the word 'candle' in their heads. Previous evidence suggests that when faced with such a task, volunteers do not visualise the word in their mind's eye; instead, their inner voice 'says' it.

It is clear that we are mostly conscious of what we are about to say. This ability allows us to stop ourselves from making inappropriate remarks, or committing faux pas," says Dr Wheeldon. "We can correct slips of the tongue before they come out."

This consciousness, or awareness, as the researchers prefer to call it, has been



Multiple choice: before you speak, your inner voice rapidly calculates possible answers

highlighted in an amusing experiment at California State University. Volunteers were given a list in which pairs of words featured. The volunteers had to read the words out as accurately as possible. The mischievous experimenters had, however, included pairs of words which would prove embarrassing if misread. Examples are 'hit shed', 'tool kits', 'heap chore' and 'duck fate'. Transposing the first letters of these words would

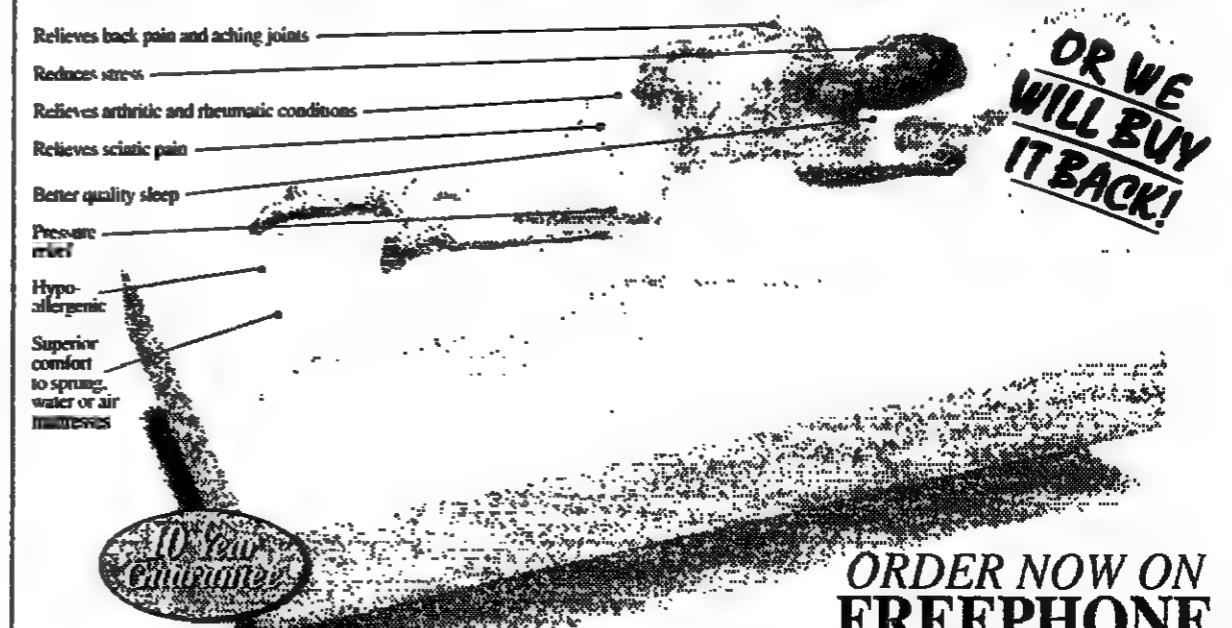
have caused the volunteers to make "taboo errors". "The volunteers were much less likely to make taboo errors than other types of mistakes," says Dr Wheeldon. "Remember, these were the sort of phrases that most people would not be happy to say during an experiment. The surprising thing was that many people made a partial correction to their mistake and, therefore, turned a taboo error into a safe partial one. They must have been aware that they were about to utter something vulgar."

Dr Wheeldon is fascinated by our ability, exposed by that experiment, to monitor and correct our inner speech. Moreover, the way we check our inner speech — for syntax, words, appropriateness, sound errors and slips of the tongue — mirrors the way we listen to other people's utterances. Thus, she posits, inner speech flows, via an internal loop, into the same cognitive circuit which handles the comprehension of external speech.

Dr Wheeldon hopes that her investigations will illuminate new aspects of speech production and comprehension. "Inner speech is one of the few linguistic codes of which we all have awareness," she says.

"And we use it in a range of cognitive tasks other than the planning of speech. It plays a role in reading, writing and memorising words. This work might help us to understand it a little more."

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Gamma rays Feeling low Alcoholic mice

The energy makers



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

FOR MORE than 20 years, gamma ray bursts have been one of the most perplexing problems in astronomy. First detected accidentally in 1973 by US satellites whose real task was to monitor nuclear tests from space, they are intense bursts of energy, lasting from fractions of a second to several hours.

They occur with great regularity, at the rate of about two a day. But their origin has been a mystery. It was impossible even to say whether they came from within the Milky Way, or from an extremely remote object billions of light years away.

Now observations from an Italian/Dutch satellite launched last year have given some clues about these events, which release as much energy in a single burst as our Sun will produce in its entire life. The satellite provides a rapid and accurate position in the sky for the source of the gamma rays, enabling astronomers to point telescopes at the same place and try to identify objects that may be the source.

In April, an international team, including astronomers from Cambridge, was able to report the first identification after tracking a burst that occurred at the end of February to a distant object, apparently located within a galaxy. But some doubt was cast on this conclusion when the Hubble Space Telescope examined the object and failed to show the fuzziness that would confirm that it was indeed a galaxy.

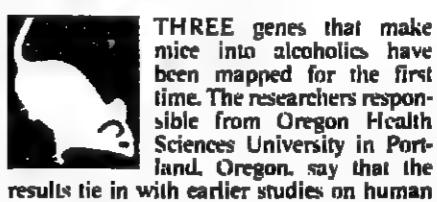
Last week, a team from the California

Institute of Technology was able to locate the source of a burst detected on May 8. Within a few hours they were looking for the object with the telescopes at Mount Palomar. They found a star-like object which was changing brightness in an unusual way, and on May 11, using the world's largest telescope, the Keck instrument on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, they were able to measure the light spectrum from clouds of material lying between us and the object. This enabled the distance to the clouds to be calculated, and showed them to be several billion light years away. The object must be even further, about seven billion light years away. Radio emissions from the object have also been detected.

For the first time, therefore, we know for certain that gamma ray bursters are not local objects. That makes the energy they produce even more extraordinary, for a few seconds the May 8 object burned a million times brighter than an entire galaxy.

The Caltech team was ecstatic. Said Professor Mark Metzger: "When I finished analysing the spectrum and saw features, I knew we had finally caught it. It was a stunning moment of revelation. Such events happen only a few times in the life of a scientist." The new results appear to prove that gamma ray bursts are not local events, but they do not tell us what they are. Favoured theories include the collision between two neutron stars, or a neutron star being swallowed by a black hole.

The drinks are on the mouse



CANADIAN

researchers from McGill University in Montreal may have discovered why women are twice as likely as men to suffer from depression and ten times as likely to develop eating disorders. In a small-scale study, they showed that women make the chemical serotonin — linked to mood and appetite — in their brains more slowly than men.

They put eight men and seven women volunteers on a low-protein diet supplemented with a chocolate syrup laced with all essential amino acids except tryptophan, which is converted metabolically into serotonin. At the same time, they injected the volunteers with minute quantities of a radioactively labelled form of tryptophan, and then gave them a tablet of normal tryptophan. Both were converted into serotonin, and, using a brain scan to detect the tracer, researchers showed that this conversion occurred 50 per cent faster in men.

Neurologist Dr Mirko Djukic of McGill says the sluggish production of serotonin may explain the sex differences. Others feel the small study needs to be confirmed.

results tie in with earlier studies on human alcoholics and may help target treatment.

Reporting in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, the team says the mice carrying particular genetic regions on chromosomes 1, 4 and 11 suffered greater withdrawal symptoms when denied alcohol than did mice with different genes. "By zeroing in on the genes that govern physical dependence on alcohol in mice, we can now locate the chromosome regions that carry human versions of these," says Professor Kari Buck, lead author in the study. The gene regions in the study appear to correspond to regions of human chromosomes 1 and 5, and could also be involved in drug addiction, she believes.

"This new information should result in targeting of treatment to the most appropriate populations at risk as well as providing insights into possible preventive medical interventions" says Professor Buck.



For a while, a couple of years ago, Marks & Spencer was the height of chic and it was a joy to discover that the only difference between the store's clothes and designer labels was the position of the decimal point on the price ticket

How Marks lost its sparks

Why does nobody talk about Marks & Spencer any more? Two years ago, the fashion world could talk of nothing else. The camel cashmere peacoat, the Tactel body in every conceivable colour, and the stretch jodhpurs were spoken of in the same hushed tones as a Prada bag. This was usually followed by a shriek: "Twelve-nine nine-five" — for some reason it was impossible to whisper the price.

Yet now there is silence. When did you last hear someone boast of finding the perfect shirt in Marks & Spencer? When did you last notice anything from the store in a glossy magazine?

As time goes by, Vogue's "Gospel According to St Michael", published in April 1995, sounds increasingly like an apocryphal tale. Go into the average regional store and it looks like a downright untruth. The most cutting-edge items are simple jersey pieces designed in conjunction with Betty Jackson — scarcely one to shock even in her own collection.

The "basics", which so recently had fashion editors swooning, no longer seem to have that nearly-Donna-Karan edge. And though there are a few high-fashion items in the collection, they can be found in only a handful of stores. In short, the chain is

Two years ago fashion editors were eulogising on the chain store's new chic — but all that has gone, reports Style Editor Grace Bradberry



Was M&S womenswear "too fashion-led"?

elsewhere, anyone who was anyone seemed to drop little hints that Marble Arch, not Brompton Cross, was the "in" place to shop. Lynne Franks, a designer-label junkie, was reported to have said that she didn't bother to go anywhere else because you could now get "everything you could ever need under one roof". Even Karen Finley, a New York conceptual artist, made it clear she could scarcely spare time for a *Guardian* interview because she wanted to get to Marks & Spencer.

Really, it was a joy to discover that the only difference between Marks & Spencer and designer clothes was the position of the decimal point on the price ticket.

You won't hear any such thing now. Yet the reason for this is not as simple as Marks & Spencer losing its way, or the fashion world finding new heroes. In truth, it is hard to say whether the fashion crowd has abandoned Marks & Spencer, or Marks & Spencer them. If this sounds mad, then it is worth referring back to the company's annual meeting of

July 1996. Questioned about women's wear marketing, Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, conceded: "We were possibly too fashion-led in the spring." In effect, Sir Richard was dismissing not only the *Vogue* feature of April 1995, but the whole glossy strategy of the company that year. The fashion edges often have to be knocked off.

"I think Marks is very canny about the way it judges the fashion content," says Richard Perks, senior retail analyst at Verdict, the retail consultancy. "It keeps up with the fashions without being very fashionable, and produces a smaller number of different styles which it retails in high volume."

It may seem odd that Marks & Spencer is downplaying its fashion content just as Dorothy Perkins, for example, is wheeling in the design team Clements Ribeiro to produce a collection. According to Richard Perks however, "The chain causing Marks & Spencer the most grief is Next, which has brought its prices down to Marks's level." There are no designer link-ups at Next.

Even if the company were still producing the to-die-for little pieces that it once did, it is unlikely that it would be as talked about. For one thing, fashion is no longer obsessed with all things "simple" and "classic".

A new mood of bohemianism has swept through the British scene and the emphasis is now on stunningly impractical pieces — Dolce & Gabbana's leopard-print chiffon coat, Clements Ribeiro's flowery dresses. Reject this eclectic boho look and the alternative is minimalism, but the shrink-wrap jerseys look so in vogue at the moment, it is surprisingly difficult to enu-

back. Hunting for something similar at cut-price is once again naff — much better to go to Portobello market and find something different altogether.

Of course, the fashion pack would still like to be able to buy flat-fronted trousers just like the Joseph ones for a

quarter of the price. They are just not going to shout about it any more. Unsurprisingly, Marks & Spencer is not there to produce them.

Spurned by those who so recently canonized him, St Michael, it seems, has gone back to watching over Tunbridge Wells.

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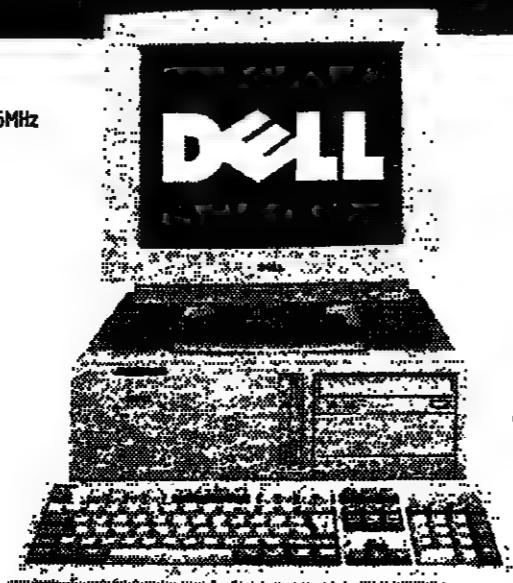
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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

Cross-channel currents: swinging Paris meets swinging London in a new exhibition at the Brighton Festival
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ THEATRE

Sebastian Barry, Irish dramatist of the moment, premieres his new play, *Prayers of Sherkin*, at the Old Vic
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ OPERA

In Cardiff, Welsh National Opera unveils David Pountney's new production of *Simon Boccanegra*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



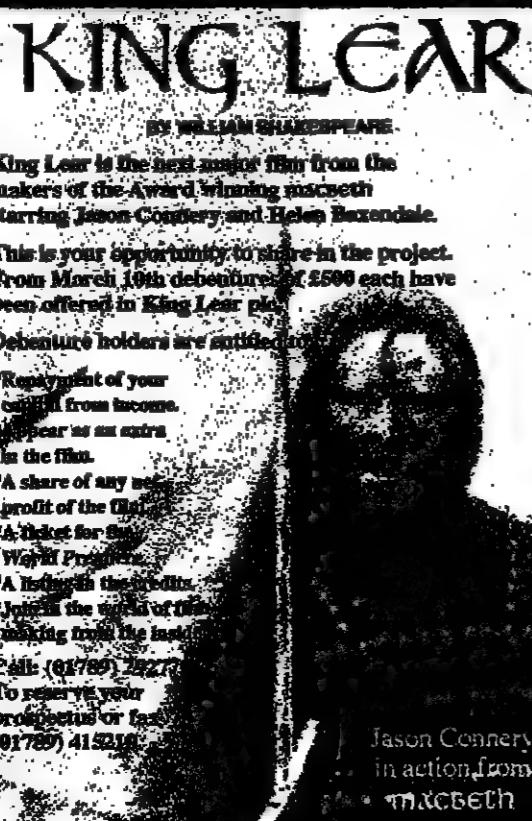
■ POP
Introspection and melancholia are on the menu as Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds play the Albert Hall
GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

VISUAL ART: Collector, writer and occasional pop star David Bowie is now in publishing. Isabel Carlisle finds out why



David Bowie: "In the Sixties I realised there was another thread of art history in ideas rather than in representation"

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CONCERTS: Gatti with flu; Russians in Birmingham

Solid sound under strain

ROYAL Philharmonic banners fluttering in the breeze proclaim the Royal Albert Hall as its London home, and certainly the orchestra seems to have settled down there. Under its music director Danièle Gardi it is turning out solidly crafted, occasionally inspired performances.

That Wednesday night's concert exemplified the former rather than the latter might have been due to the indisposition of Gatti. In spite of suffering from influenza, he conducted the concert, though cancelled the discussion due to have taken place afterwards.

There seemed a sense of lethargy in his readings of Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel*

and Mahler's Symphony No 1. Certainly the Strauss went through the motions of the programme but it was not storytelling of a kind where one hung on every word. If the climactic moments of the Mahler were worth waiting for, there could have been more zest injected into the parody band music of the funeral march. The lilting trio of the second movement, however, was done with tasteful glibness and well-judged rhythmic hesitations.

Strauss's Oboe Concerto is a

difficult work to bring off in a large space such as the Albert Hall. I suspect many people further away will have had difficulty registering much of the detail: from my own seat, hardly a bow's length from the back desk of the strings, I heard plenty of detail but in a false perspective.

It was enough, though, to enjoy the mellifluous artistry of Christopher Cowie, soloist for the evening. The opening roulades were spun seamlessly, and the conversational quality of the line was captured in spontaneous, merciful phrasing.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Youth fails the challenge

There is no such thing as a divine right in music. I suspect that, as the present senior member of a distinguished musical dynasty, Pavel Kogan, the chief conductor of the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, thinks there is. But as the son of a great violinist he should also know that Dmitri Kogan, his own son and Leonid Kogan's grandson, has not right at this stage in his career to be playing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto on an international concert platform (and so should IMG Artists, which must surely be expected to exercise a strict quality control on behalf of the venues which buy into the tours it promotes).

Before coming to Symphony

Hall in Birmingham 18-year-old Dmitri had played in Coventry, Cardiff and Nottingham, and it could be that he did all these perfectly well, but I seriously doubt it. He has obviously been through some rigorous drilling and he did manage some of the virtuoso passages impressively enough, not least the double-stopped arpeggios and bravura runs in the coda of the last movement. But in matters of melodic phrasing, rhythmic subtlety, expressive colouring, identification of and commitment to the composer's emotional and structural purpose at any given point — not to mention consistency in intonation and keeping in time with the orchestra — I have never

heard a performance as clumsy and as uncomprehending as this one. The audience, I should add, was ecstatic.

Having selected four items from Khachaturian's concert suites, with the evident intention of combining the most exotic excerpts from the ballet with the most popular, Pavel Kogan produced scarcely one authentic thrill. His treatment of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* at the beginning of the concert, though heavily over-coloured by percussion, was more effective. But his interpretation of Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony entirely missed the composer's exquisitely ironic point.

GERALD LARNER

Hot art gossip by Bowie

Britpop is a highly readable and gossipy account of the young London art scene. Its author, Matt Collings, writes a regular diary of his art world encounters and musings for *Modern Painters* in a style that resembles an impetuous, streetwise Gertrude Stein. He opens his new book with "Hello Reader! I went to Quo Vadis the other night. That's the well-known restaurant in Dean Street that Damien Hirst recently redesigned. Now it's full of art by young people who are in *Vogue* and on TV all the time. Are they any good?"

"Gossip is really important," says Bowie. "It's what we do all the time. It's the pivot of our interaction with each other. In the Sixties a historical overview emerged which was more aimed to individuals than to patronage. This way of thinking, of which gossip is a part, is breaking down the barriers between the art forms — it's the way life in the 21st century should go."

On Collings's book, Bowie says: "It's the late 20th century observed not by an intellectual but by a burglar's torch." Wright adds: "Using

large pictures of artists and small pictures of the works looks a smock at traditional art. I bought and they influenced me enormously. For *Ziggy Stardust* the combination of images, its randomness and confusion, was taken from Dada while the staging came from German Expressionism and film makers of that period such as Fritz Lang and Pabst. The very extreme white lighting was trying to recapture the feel of Lang's *Metropolis*," he says.

Bowie found art a model not

just for what could be achieved, but for how it could be achieved.

"In the Sixties I digested everything and it was a very formative period

because I realised that there were no boundaries — there was another thread of art history in ideas, rather than in representation. I found Duchamp and his school so exciting. It was as if they were saying, 'I defy you to come to my art and establish with this idea.' That made everything seem possible. Rock, too, was about interfacing different attitudes. When a child puts its nose to the edge of an open door, and looks on both sides at once, that's how I feel."

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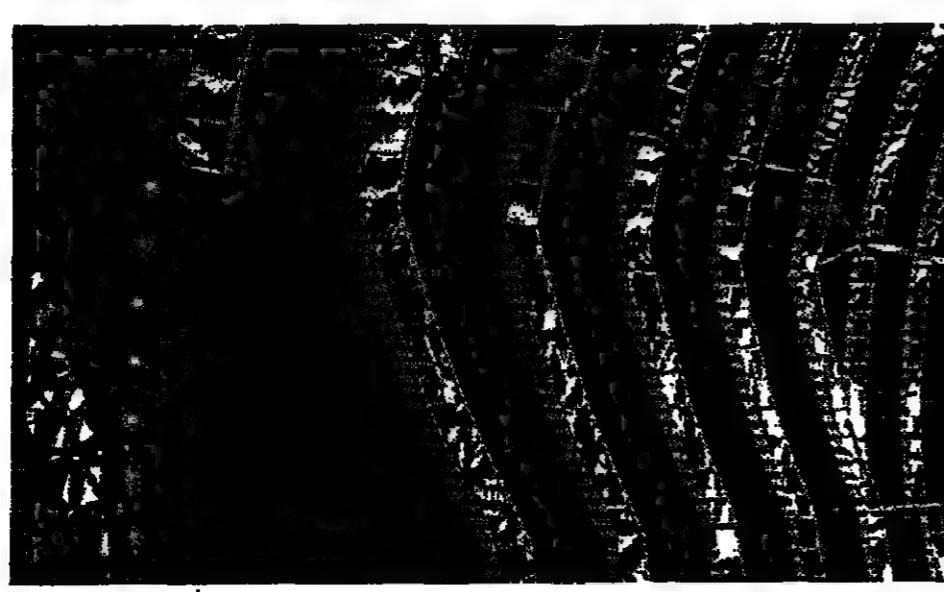
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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 19 1997

■ MUSIC



Acclaimed pianist Maurizio Pollini continues his Beethoven series at the Festival Hall. CONCERT: Tomorrow. REVIEW: Thursday



■ CABARET

Songs from some of the West End's biggest shows feature in a South Bank evening with Ruthie Henshall. PERFORMANCE: Wednesday. REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

Sean Bean stars in *Anna Karenina*, the first Western film shot entirely in post-Soviet Russia. OPENS: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday



The fascinating life and times of the painter Duncan Grant are explored in a fine new biography. IN THE SHOPS: Now. REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

The Royal Geographical Society runs a series of lunchtime lectures called *Last Word*. I am giving one tomorrow and I fear that I may have taken them too literally. I argue that the small screen could be at war with what is essential in the arts. That, while television is brilliant at summaries and approximations, what constitutes the uniqueness and purpose of art is often lost, perhaps damaged, sometimes betrayed.

Writing that was strangely liberating. For years I have been an advocate for the arts on television, and brought to bear arguments which range from access to Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich's notion of "the Beholder's Share", wherein the viewer's imagination and experiences fill out what might be slight and superficial. Taking what seems to me the devil's part was a delinquent pleasure. I have often argued the analogy between dance and football (not, save ironically, on aesthetic grounds) simply to show that just as

watching football on a small screen can be amplified into an experience comparable to attending a live game, so the elasticity of the imagination can do the same for dance.

But can it? Or is the whole notion of space, human measurement, lines of movement, live audience presence, all betrayed, as we caged the noble lions Nureyev and Baryshnikov and put them into tubes where they were as unhappy as any animal in a zoo. Again in painting. There have been superb programmes recently by Andrew Graham-Dixon, Robert Hughes, Michael Gill (Vermeer), Gerald For (Gilbert and George) and Melissa Raimes (Howard Hodgkin), but even these deeply worked films slide by the point. When I look at *The Lake* by Corot, for instance, what strikes me first is the size of it. It is neither

big nor small, but it is the size Corot intended it to be and it is not the size of any television screen. I look at it in my own time. I return to it. I concentrate on the parts of it I wish to concentrate on. I am not in the hands of a director, however sensitive. Gradually, at my own pace, the painting seeps into my mind, rather like the fizz that permeates it. How on earth could that be replicated on television?

The argument goes on with, for me, a peculiar mixture of pessimism and exhilaration. We all know that "poetry is what is lost in translation", but there is a vague belief that prose fiction can carry from the page to the screen. Look at the success of the Jane Austens. Success, yes. Expert, entertaining, a cut above, a delight; but Jane Austen in *Persuasion*, for example, on page 2 there is a simple paragraph on the late Lady Elliot,

"whose judgment and conduct, if they might be pardoned the youthful infatuation which made her Lady Elliot, had never required indulgence afterwards". Three sentences later we have a portrait,

not only of Lady Elliot, but also of the moral steer of the novel. The hidden core is there in the description of someone who does not "appear", and yet is essential.

The US cavalry in this argument arrives first in the persons of artists, most notably dramatists, who work directly on to television — Jimmy McGovern, John Cleese, Dennis Potter, Richard Curtis and Ben Elton — and secondly among arts documentary-makers who at their best can make a fair claim to be artists.

This does not mean that they capture the essence of the art on a medium which is so different. It does mean, though, that in describing people and a process, an event and craft — or all of these — they inhabit what might be fancifully called a parallel universe to that of the artists at the centre of their work. Indeed, an arts docu-

mentary film can sometimes be more effective than the work it addresses; but it can never register the unique quality of another art.

We are entering one of the greatest boom times ever in British film and television production. When Chris Smith, the *Heritage* director, handed over £92 million in Cannes (which will trigger another £300 million) he gave the British film industry a heave up the final incline of production and distribution which has given it so much trouble over the past 90 years.

Another great opportunity presents itself this week, when the Independent Television Commission is to grant digital terrestrial multiplex licences to broadcast on 15 new channels. There are two bidders. One consists of Granada (of which I am an employee),

Carlton and BSkyB, backed by the BBC. The other is DTN, an American cable company.

It has not been widely reported that a British company would not be allowed to apply for a similar licence in America, which does seem a touch odd. We are all internationalists now, but these 15 channels are very valuable to thousands of new young people in the media in this country, and it might be odd to see the licences go to a company which has to send its profits back to America.

Moreover, the Granada consortium is promising a £30 million investment for original production for each of the 15 channels. This would be enough, together with the new film money, to give many of our young talented new directors and technicians the chance for take-off. Surely we are not going to walk away from an opportunity such as this?

• *Melvyn Bragg's Last Word lecture is at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 1RJ. 7.30-8.30, tomorrow at 12.45pm*

Things of beauty arrive broken in the Box



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Jury in search of a masterpiece

From *The Killer Condom* to *Regeneration*, Geoff Brown rounds up the contenders at the Cannes Film Festival

So the party's over. The red carpet is rolled up, the bunting dismantled, and the man employed to advertise the German film *The Killer Condom* has flown off to pastures new.

Perhaps this Cannes festival would have seemed better if it had not been the fifteenth edition. For you expect a parade of masterpieces, or at least a handful of titles strong enough to bring on the trumpets and drums. They never arrived: nor did any critical consensus. The competition jury had a lot on its plate: seven to 10 films, and a lot that could satisfy personalities as varied as Mike Leigh, Tim Burton, and the novelist Michael Ondrasik.

For days in advance, Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* was being trailed as a possible victor. Once it unspooled, opinions varied, though it was easy to be seduced by the wintry widescreen imagery. The film, based on Russell Banks's novel, tells of a lawyer (a tight-lipped Ian Holm) who stars in a small town grieving for 14 children lost when their school bus spun off an icy road.

This is the first time the idiosyncratic Canadian director has adapted someone else's work. There is an immediate gain in emotional directness: for Egoyan, the film is remarkably moving. There is also a loss of intellectual depth, and not every jingle in the story's time frame seems justified. But for this viewer the gains easily dominate. Egoyan's films were starting to

suffer from in-bredness: *The Sweet Hereafter* provides a lovely infusion of fresh blood.

Hopes and fears, were also high for *Funny Games*, the new film from the Austrian director of *Benny's Video*, Michael Haneke. This came equipped with a warning about its disturbing content, in fact

6. After In the Company of Men I gave my sex a wide berth?

there is little violence; any queasy feelings are induced by the apprehension of nasty acts at the hands of the two youths who assume control of a family's lakeside summer home, and — announce that mother, father and son will be dead by nine in the morning.

Haneke positions the audience as co-conspirators, willing the worst to happen. Scrupulously well directed, these games with violence and the media never get under the skin or tell us anything new: the truly violent competition entry was Mathieu Kassovitz's *Assassins*, a show-off film with nothing worth showing.

A few other competition films pushed technique to the edge.

For uncomplicated pleasure, one film loomed higher than any other: Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential*, an adaptation of the labyrinthine novel by James Ellroy, with an excellent cast led by Kevin Spacey and Russell Crowe. Booze, drugs, police corruption, journalistic sleaze: they were all on parade, cleverly choreographed, though the drama went on a little too long.

Outside the competition, there was the usual raft of American independent product, though their independence seems to be shrinking. The same material, the same actors: the same desire to be hip or grungy. Kicked in the Head from Matthew Harrison wished to be both, with dispiriting photography.

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quences, as it trailed unlikeable characters around Manhattan's Lower East Side, searching for love, money, cocaine, and the higher truth.

In *The Company of Men* was something else, and set people talking from its very first screening. Nell Labute, the writer-director, has ideas in his head, if not the wherewithal to express them fully. The men are not good company at all. White-collar executives with women trouble, they hatch a plot to woo someone vulnerable — deaf, in fact — only to ditch her and cause exquisite pain. Much of the action unfolds like a play (Labute has a theatrical background), but in the main the dialogue is tart enough to keep us riveted and appalled by the portrait of the corporate male beast. After the screening I gave my sex a wide berth.

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My Son the Fanatic, written by Hanif Kureishi, was another sinewy film with ideas. A Pakistani taxi-driver in a northern town deepens his relationship with a hooker just when his son falls under the sway of fundamentalists. Udayan Prasad, director of the admirable *Brothers in Trouble*, has trouble tying the film's many strands, but the warm performances of Om Puri and Rachel Griffiths ensure a strong emotional core. Not a perfect movie; nor a perfect Cannes festival.



Austrian Michael Haneke's well directed *Funny Games* came with a warning about its disturbing content, but there is little violence

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Why water prices must not fall

Environmentalists and suppliers have the same aims, write Brian Duckworth and Simon Lyster

Environmental groups and water companies do not often stand shoulder to shoulder. Today we do. The new Government is hosting a "Water Summit", and the water company Severn Trent and the Wildlife Trusts are united about what needs to be done.

The key to water sustainability — meeting society's needs for water without damaging the environment — is partnership. The Government has recognised this, and we welcome today's meeting as a first step towards getting politicians, regulators, water companies, environmentalists and consumers to tackle the problem together. Environmental groups can use their influence to help water companies promote wise use of water, and the water industry must hoist the environmental banner too.

Per capita demand for water in Britain has almost doubled over the past 40 years and the signs are that it will carry on rising. However, some water supplies have come under pressure in the recent drought years, and if climate change predictions are right there will be even less water available, at least in the southern half of Britain, in 15 or 20 years' time.

In response to the growing demand for water for homes, factories, farms and gardens, we have put an unacceptable strain on our natural environment. Not all the news is bad, though. River quality is improving and the quality of the water we drink is better than ever before. Nevertheless, hundreds of our most precious wildlife sites are suffering from over-abstraction of water. And when water levels are down, vulnerability to pollution increases.

So what needs to be done? Well, Severn Trent and the Wildlife Trusts agree that abstracting water at levels causing damage to important wildlife sites should stop. We would like the Government to tell all water-abtractors that this must cease. The regulating agencies need powers to follow this through. Furthermore we would like the Government to say that it expects the water industry and regulators to improve the environment and to aim for the species and habitat recovery targets contained in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. A clear message from the Government about river quality is also crucial.

It will be possible to achieve this while meeting customer needs only if water is used more efficiently. The Government and water industry must adopt a strategy to reverse the growth in consumption.

In recent years, water companies have invested heavily in reducing leakage, but more work is needed. Leakage rates of 15 per cent — about half the present average — should be the norm.

Water-metering should be encouraged. Research by Severn Trent has shown that metering can lead to 20 per cent reductions in consump-

tion. But it would be both socially inequitable and a waste of resources to require immediate metering everywhere. Water-use in inner city flats is low compared to consumption in suburbs characterised by larger homes with garden sprinklers. Metering should be targeted where it will have most impact.

The Government and the water industry have a responsibility to promote a whole range of water-efficiency devices from low-flush toilets and water-efficient domestic appliances to garden water-butt and trickle irrigation systems. And environmental groups such as the Wildlife Trusts must join the campaign to encourage the public to use less water.

But even if all this is done, the industry will need to plan imaginatively and invest heavily to meet both human and environmental needs in the next century. Climate change predictions suggest that the once-in-250-years drought of the 1990s could be occurring one year in three by 2050. We are likely to see heavier winter rainfalls and drier, warmer summers. Making better use of the winter rains will help us

to maintain rivers and wetlands during drier summers. Severn Trent already has a policy of taking water from rivers at times of high flow so that it can use stocks from reservoirs when flow levels are lower. This is good for the environment, but costly. It also requires more water storage. Yes, we may well need to build more reservoirs. But if properly planned and sited, reservoirs can enhance the environment.

We shall need an efficient system of sub-regional grids to take water where it is needed most, but we must take care not to use rivers or wetlands for the transfer of water with characteristics different from those occurring naturally. It would be highly damaging, for example, to transfer naturally acidic water via chalk streams, or vice versa.

Our fundamental contention is that there can be enough water for both people and wildlife in Britain, and that as a society we should demand nothing less. But it will require continuing investment to achieve that. That is why it would be ridiculous for the regulator and the Government to insist on water price reductions in the next few years.

Customers are telling the water companies that they will not tolerate water restrictions in the future. We must, therefore, do everything we can to meet the needs of water-users and the environment. The environment would be the loser if price reductions were forced on the industry and investment cuts had to be made.

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Conservatives need to reform their organisation from bottom to top — starting with the leadership ballot

The new leader needs a democratic party

To whom does the Conservative Party belong? Does it belong to the leader? No, he is the servant, not the sovereign. Does it belong to the Members of Parliament? No, they are elected because they have the support of the party. The Conservative Party belongs to its members, just as the sovereignty of the nation belongs to its citizens. To go back to the true original doctrine of democracy, John Locke concluded his *Treatise of Civil Government*, thus: "If they have set limits to the duration of their legislature, at the determination of the time set, the people have a right to place the legislature in new hands as they think good." The people of Britain have just thought it good to have a new Government; are the people of the Conservative Party to be given the same opportunity, or will be it exercised by a narrower and unrepresentative group?

Everyone involved in the last general election seems to be agreed on one thing: the Conservative Party in too many constituencies was dying in its sixties or seventies, a few in their eighties. There was no adequate canvass, not even in many of the seats the Tories lost. There were part-time or temporary agents in place of the full-time professional agents who once worked so hard to turn marginals into safe seats. The party in the constituencies was perhaps only half as efficient as it was 20 years ago, and was wholly unattractive to the young. I heard of only one canvasser who called himself a Young Conservative.

At the other end of the scale was the loss of authority in the leadership, of which John Major has complained bitterly to his friends. In the last ten years, there have been three contested elections for the Conservative leadership, two against Margaret Thatcher, the second of which removed her, despite her three election victories; one was against John Major himself, who had left the need to reassess his authority by resigning and challenging his opponents. The last two leaders have found themselves presiding over factions rather than leading a united party. The narrow electorate of the parliamentary party has not proved a solid base for leadership. If the next leader also depends on this narrow base, the first disagreements, the first parliamentary failures against Tony Blair, will be followed by renewed talk of yet another leadership contest. Only a broad electorate can give a broad mandate for leadership.

This week the 1922 Committee will be considering whether to broaden the electorate, and whether to postpone the election of the next leader, decisions that could determine whether the Tories are out of power for five, ten, or even 15 years. These decisions are not to be taken lightly. The MPs do not include anyone from Wales, Scotland, or most of the large cities of England. They are not representative. None of the six declared candidates commands the confidence of a majority either in the House of Commons or in the party in the constituencies.

Only one constitutional proposal would both revitalise the party in the country and give unquestioned authority to the new leader. That is to place the leadership election not in some limited franchise, even an

extended one, but in the hands of all the members of all the constituencies. Every member of a constituency association registered by, say, September 30, should be entitled to vote for the next leader of the party. This proposal should be discussed in the first place between the outgoing leader, John Major, the 1922 Committee, and the National Union. When outline proposals have been agreed, there should be consultation with every constituency, and agents should be drafted in to complete and

extended one, but in the hands of all the members of all the constituencies. Every member of a constituency association registered by, say, September 30, should be entitled to vote for the next leader of the party. This proposal should be discussed in the first place between the outgoing leader, John Major, the 1922 Committee, and the National Union. When outline proposals have been agreed, there should be consultation with every constituency, and agents should be drafted in to complete and

scrutinise every constituency's roll of membership. The approved proposal should be put before the party conference, and the election itself should be held either towards the end of this year or early in 1998. By that time, the missing candidates, Michael Portillo and Christopher Patten, might be available.

This would be good for the party in the constituencies: it would give them a reason to win recruits and a sense of democratic power. It would change the Tories from being organisationally elitist to being a members' party. The new leader would be their

the problem of the leadership in the eight months it might take to adopt the new constitution and actually hold the election. It is unlikely that John Major would be willing to continue. An acting leader could be chosen, perhaps Michael Heseltine if his health allows, or an experienced figure like John MacGregor if not.

There are only one or two lasting political decisions which are likely to be taken during this interim period. The Conservatives will oppose the Referendum (Scotland & Wales) Bill, and are likely to oppose further European integration. A new policy on Scotland and Wales is needed, but that will have to be hammered out over some period of time. The leadership election would itself stimulate policy debate inside the party.

The great merit of such a constitutional change would be democratisation: there is, after all, a dangerous mismatch between a top-down party and a democratic Britain. A similar mismatch may be developing in Tony Blair's Labour Party, but that is another matter. It may be necessary for the Conservatives to move in the direction even if the old-fashioned electoral procedure is followed. How can any of the six candidates win the authority that a leader needs without a national election, against genuine opposition?

After the 1997 defeat, the Conservatives must recognise the extent of the failure, in the constituencies, in the voluntary organisation, in Central Office, in Parliament, in the Government, in the leadership. That failure requires a root-and-branch reform of the party. That should start in the constituencies, which can be revitalised only if they are given the power that belongs to them. It must unite the constituencies with the leadership. Tory democracy must be more than a fine phrase: only a directly elected leader will have democratic authority.

We need Taylor-made reform

Labour should strengthen the restraining powers of the Commons, says Peter Riddell

Whenever anyone talks about modernisation of the House of Commons, I am wary. Further reform is desirable, indeed overdue, but will change really strengthen the legislature, or just make life easier for the executive? That tension is already apparent in the new Government with its vast majority and fragmented opposition. The outcome will determine whether we have exchanged one era of "elective dictatorship" for another.

The omens so far are mixed. On the one side, Peter Mandelson, a democratic centralist by instinct and experience, argues that "Labour MPs have been elected in order to carry out our manifesto", and have a responsibility "not to impede or present barriers" to its implementation. The command style of opposition lives on — understandably in some ways, given the fractiousness of Labour MPs when previously in government. On the other side, Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons, will this week launch a review of the workings of the House, including ideas about the scrutiny of legislation, and "strengthening the ability of MPs to make the Government answerable for its actions". However, her first contribution as Leader was unilaterally to announce the replacement of the twice-weekly 15-minute sessions of Prime Minister's Questions with one 30-minute session, starting this Wednesday. The Tories have complained about lack of consultation, though I have sympathy with Roy Jenkins, who says that if reform was to be undertaken, it had to be before the session started and one side was up and the other down. Such excuses have prevented reform before.

Conflicts between executive and legislative priorities have limited parliamentary reform over the years. Thirty years ago, Richard Crossman's attempt largely failed through lack of support from other ministers. The major innovation since then, the introduction of departmental select committees in 1979, was a rare exception, being bounced through in the immediate aftermath of the Tory victory.

Mrs Taylor's reform proposals are not entirely novel. Many build on changes introduced over the past five years by Tony Newton. Late night sittings have already virtually disappeared, and MPs are able to plan ahead and spend more time in their constituencies. Mrs Taylor has hinted at a more even spread of sittings during the year, perhaps returning in September and then having occasional

al weeks off during sessions. One unremarked result of the big rise in the number of women MPs is the high proportion with young children, so the parliamentary year may be limited more to the school year.

Mr Newton also introduced more consultation about draft Bills, to avoid the mistakes and hasty rewriting seen in the past. Mrs Taylor rightly wants to take this further, both by allowing more time for consultation before Bills are published, as on freedom of information and pension-splitting, and by improving the way Bills are scrutinised when going through Parliament.

For these changes to work, the executive has to give up some of its power to determine the shape of legislation.

Of course, a government with a majority is entitled to get its way on the thrust of its programme, and there will always be bitter disagreements over some measures. But even in these cases there is always scope for improvements: the Government has to be willing to accept suggestions from select committees of amendments to Bills without losing face. Mrs Taylor says she wants "a less confrontational and more productive process": that means that the whips have to be less stringent. But if the legislature is to regain its proper role, not of governing (which is for the executive) but of holding ministers to account, further changes are necessary. Parliament has to recognise, rather than just complain about, the emergence of alternative centres of power — whether the European institutions, the judiciary, utility regulators or, now, the Bank of England. The monitoring of all of them is haphazard. An elaborate structure exists for scrutinising European legislation, but the exercise needs to be made part of the political mainstream. Select committees are currently free to pick their own topics for inquiry. Instead, they should have a duty to report on the activities of bodies within their remit, such as regulators. Such an obligation is explicit in Gordon Brown's proposals for ensuring full accountability of the Bank of England via reports to and questioning by the Treasury committee.

These changes are far more important than the "sleaze" row that dominated the last Parliament. Reforms are desirable here also. The Standards and Privileges Committee could be made less political and more judicial, possibly if the Leader of the House was no longer the chairman. Some actions, such as financial impropriety, could also be brought within the scope of the criminal law, which already applies to election offences (it's stale in the allegations against Mohammed Sarwar).

But what really matters now is the creation of a check on the executive. The Lords does not have the authority to be more than a temporary hurdle (requiring the Commons to look again, as Lord Cranborne suggested yesterday). The Opposition is fragmented and the Tories' trauma is likely to last for some time. So a real test of the Government's commitment to reform will be whether it is willing to create a counterbalance to its own power. Mrs Taylor has some good ideas, but does the Government have the will?

Modelling comes as a bit of a shock," says Ball in between cramming for his theology finals this week. "I'm more a jeans and rowing-kit man, and I'd rather be a management consultant than a model." Worse, when Versace approached the Cambridge rowing

manager to see if his eight could model a forthcoming Lycra range, he asked "What exactly is Versace?"

Promotion

HONG KONG'S handover celebrations will include re-creations of the Last Night of the Proms on each of the last three nights before the colony reverts to China, courtesy of Richard Branson. His company Virgin Atlantic will be flying out the mezzo-soprano Della Jones to perform with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, with a renit to stiffen British spines with a light classical fare and such old bangers as *Rule Britannia* and *Jerusalem*.

How seriously China takes Branson's stunt will become apparent when the Government replies to his airline's bid for a London-Shanghai route.

ONE MORE victim of Chelsea's success, to add to the thousands in the North East, is Estelle Skornik, the actress better known as Nicole, the Renault Clio girl. Today she will be appearing at the Chelsea Flower Show to promote the "Garden in Provence", a celebration of all things French. The shaven-

Proper nosh

HOUSE OF COMMONS food looks set to be the first battleground since the election for the war between new and old Labour. At the State Opening of Parliament, an impenetrable foreign menu was served up in the Strangers' dining room, full of potential mignottes and untranslatable French sauces. For Sir Raymond Powell, 68, Labour's MP for Ogmore in South Wales, it was too much. He is planning to run for the position of chairman of the catering committee. His manifesto: out with the bordelaise bonmarron, in with the faggots and peas.

"I shouldn't need a degree in French to be able to order my dinner," says Powell, a Welshman whose

مكتبة من الأصل



THE BUDGET JUDGMENT

Gordon Brown should resist temptation on tax

Rarely has there been a "more gross breach of faith" with the people than the last Tory Government's decision to raise taxes just six months after the 1992 election. Labour, by contrast, would renew Britain's "faith in politics" by sticking to its pledges through thick and thin. So said Tony Blair in the preface to Labour's election manifesto. Now that Mr Blair is Prime Minister, the question is whether he will forget these fine pre-election phrases. Nothing Labour said in the election would preclude a major redistribution of taxes — for example from the poor to the rich or from workers to shareholders and pensioners. But before even considering such issues of distribution, the Chancellor must make what is called the "Budget judgment". He must decide whether to increase the total burden of tax.

Gordon Brown may present the Prime Minister with a tempting case for higher taxes. Politically, the first Budget of a new Parliament is the best time for unpopular measures. Not only is the pain likely to be forgotten by the next election, it can also be blamed on the "mess" allegedly left behind by the other side.

But even assuming that Mr Blair is sincere enough about the people's trust to eschew such political considerations, he will hear four plausible-sounding economic arguments for higher tax. First, the Treasury will probably claim (as it nearly always does) that the economy is overheating and needs to be slowed down to avert inflation. This is a counsel of despair. Without economic growth, the new Government's promises to reduce long-term unemployment will turn to ashes.

Secondly, Mr Blair may hear the argument that even if economic growth is not excessive it needs to be "rebalanced" away from consumption and in favour of exports. Such a manoeuvre can often be performed by raising taxes, while pushing down both

interest rates and the pound. It would be, in principle, a valid justification for a fiscal tightening. But the logic is much less compelling now that the independent Bank of England is unlikely to offset higher taxes with lower interest rates. With the tax and monetary levers operated by different people, a fiscal tightening could simply push sterling even higher and aggravate the economic slowdown which the Bank wants to bring about by raising interest rates.

Thirdly, Mr Blair may be told that higher taxes are needed because the Treasury "books" bequeathed by the Tories are full of "black holes". This is simply untrue. Public borrowing is below Treasury forecasts and will continue to improve even without policy changes. Britain is the only major country in Europe whose finances already meet the Maastricht criteria without creative accounting. Of course, further tax increases could make Britain's public finances even stronger. But this hardly justifies an urgent retrenchment by a Government which has just promised not to raise taxes and to put the unemployed back to work.

This leaves the fourth, and most plausible, reason for Mr Brown to raise the burden of taxes: to give himself leeway for higher public spending in future years. Labour has promised to stick to the Tory spending plans only until March 1999. From then onwards, the Government will almost certainly want more revenue. By being tough now, Mr Brown could build up a war chest for a public spending binge in the run-up to the next election. But such political manipulation would carry costs. It would needlessly deflate the economy, hitting both employment and investment. It would make spending control more difficult as ministers saw the Treasury's coffers overflowing. Above all, it would damage Mr Blair's claims about his new covenant of honesty with the people.

SUSPEND SARWAR

Labour must be true to its stance on sleaze

The Conservatives' election campaign was torpedoed within days of its launch by sleaze. Now it is Labour's turn to have its fresh start tarnished by allegations of corruption. The impression may lodge in the public mind that there is nothing to choose in this matter between the parties and sleaze is a seamless robe. That would be wrong. The allegations made against Mohammed Sarwar, the MP for Glasgow Govan, are of a different order from those levelled against the Tory MPs accused of corruption, and cast light on a different problem. They do, however, call for similarly tough treatment.

Labour may understandably be tempted to give Mr Sarwar the benefit of the doubt for reasons as much ethnic as ethical. Even after a landslide for Labour, he is the only Muslim member of this Parliament. Muslim voters have been disappointed by the failure of the Labour Party to select others of their faith for safe or even winnable seats. Their loyalty to Labour might be further strained if Mr Sarwar was perceived as the victim and not the villain in this affair.

Mr Sarwar's background may be the reason for leniency now, but it is also at the root of the allegations. As both a Muslim and Glaswegian politician, Mr Sarwar has had to wade through murky waters. Glasgow has been a Labour Party barony for far longer than 18 years and, as the Tories proved, too long a lese on power breeds arrogance and corruption. It can also mean that political competition takes place within parties, on organisational grounds, rather than between them on ideology.

The introduction of one member, one vote, in candidate selection has made Labour more democratic but it has also given

ambitious organisers a new outlet. In several seats across the UK dramatic increases in Labour Party membership among Asians have been recorded. Their memberships have often been bought by activists, not necessarily themselves from the Asian community, hoping to influence candidate selection.

The selection process in Govan which resulted in Mr Sarwar's election was particularly tortuous. Party in-fighting created resentment locally and Mr Sarwar saw a swing to the Scottish National Party in his seat. Although Mr Blair is insulated by a massive majority he would not welcome a by-election in Scotland which could give the nationalists a boost while devolution was being debated. He must, however, realise that what would be far more damaging would be the perception that he was soft on sleaze and soft on the causes of sleaze.

The allegations against Mr Sarwar are, primarily, for the police to investigate. Because the charges levelled against him concern election to office, not its abuse, any case to answer must in law be heard in the courts, not Parliament. That does not, however, absolve Labour of responsibility.

Allegations of this gravity directed at others in public life would lead to a suspension until innocence was proved. Whatever Mr Sarwar's role in this matter, there are in any case strong grounds for Labour's NEC to investigate the affair and draw appropriate lessons about the candidate selection process. Labour does not suffer from sleaze on the scale the Tories did, but having made probity in public life a central campaign issue it has an obligation to take every step it can to allay the electorate's doubts.

VEGANS AND VOLVOS

Protesters can be posh too

As connoisseurs of disaster movies know, airports can be the backdrop for the strongest alliances. Almost as odd as the friendships struck trying to save one of Arthur Haley's jinxed jumbos are the new relationships fostered in the shadow of Manchester Airport. As we report on page 5, a shared opposition to a second runway for Manchester has created a second political revolution in Tatton. The Tory ladies who deserted the blackhearted Neil Hamilton for the white-suited Martin Bell are now walking gingerly, arm-in-arm, with the authentically earth-toned Swampy. The middle classes of Mobberley, who would have imagined Vegans were characters from *Star Trek* until they met the eco-warriors, are now cooking macrobiotic picnics. My enemy's enemy has always been my friend but the anti-airport alliance may presage something broader — the rediscovery of rebelliousness among Britain's bourgeoisie.

Middle class has become a metaphor for all that is boring in Britain, but the privet hedges hide the nation's real rebels. The twenty-something leaders of the anti-runway protest are, in many cases, the products of middle-class homes. Their parents may be fighting to control prosperous middle-age spread, but thirty years ago they let it all hang out. As they moved from hippy to yuppie to mummy they may have lost their energy but many will have kept their idealism. Seeing their little darlings pick up the ideas, and then do something about it, will have led many a Home Counties mother

to rifle nostalgically through the record collection for the Joni Mitchell album.

Others, emboldened by their offspring's actions, have had a go at protesting themselves. Some of those campaigning against live animal exports at Brightonsea harbour had accents as cut glass as any at Cowes. Previous protests against road developments at Twyford Down or Newbury saw the blue rinse brigade and the no rinse for days division standing together. It would be too much to suggest that the experience transformed the Berkshire WI into the military wing of Greenpeace but it did nudge some of the comfortable out of their complacency.

It helps that the causes today's protesters are championing chime with middle-class concerns. Greenery is more popular than Greenham Common could ever be. Cynics may, however, argue that the Cheshire ladies handing buns to the eco-warriors are really supporting Nimby, not Swampy. Certainly, some of the Mobberley middle classes will be more agitated by falling house prices than the fragile ecology. Others, however, will find, as anyone might, that once you get close to Swampy something rubs off. The all-encompassing fervour of the eco-warriors' vision is bound to have an impact on Cheshire ladies who have, hitherto, had more pressing concerns than the future of the planet to worry about.

Permanent protesting can prove tiring but we all need, occasionally, to be reminded of the importance of being earnest. The Home Counties mother

of the eco-warriors' vision is bound to have an impact on Cheshire ladies who have, hitherto, had more pressing concerns than the future of the planet to worry about.

Permanent protesting can prove tiring but we all need, occasionally, to be reminded of the importance of being earnest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

3

Cook's tour of our new horizons

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, Your excellent leading article today, "Horizon tour", pointed out many of the dilemmas which will face Robin Cook and his team as they seek to bring a greater degree of ethics into our national foreign policy.

However, as in Robin Cook's "mission statement", so in your editorial:

scarcely a reference to the role of the United Nations in so many areas of concern to our new Government. In our view, the United Nations is central in such areas as securing global environmental protection, real justice for the world's poor, internationally verifiable arms control and disarmament, the greater implementation of human rights standards and the promotion of preventive diplomacy as a major aspect of conflict avoidance.

Robin Cook has once again emphasised the key role which the United Kingdom wishes to play in the European Union. As the member states of the EU seek, however falteringly, to create a common foreign and security policy, they are involving themselves increasingly in United Nations initiatives — as is the Commonwealth, which Mr Cook also wishes to see strengthened.

We urge both the Foreign Secretary and *The Times* to promote the centrality of the United Nations in all the efforts made to enhance the many standards required for a more just and peaceful world.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM HARPER, Director, United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 3 Whitehall Court, SW1. May 13.

Ethics and realpolitik

From Mr Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham (Labour)

Sir, Why does Simon Jenkins ("Missionary diplomacy", May 14) dump on the Government's view that the elimination of child labour is a worthy object of foreign policy?

The memory and spirit of Wilberforce and others who argued that British values as well as British interests should influence our foreign policy are coming back to life in the Foreign Office. Cynics may sneer that even a little idealism is a dangerous thing; but give a Wilberforce who campaigned against the immediate economic interests of slave-traders or, more recently, a Churchill who called for a united Europe after 1945, in contrast to the *realpolitik* advocates, who appear to despise democracy, or the latter-day Little England isolationists who hate partnership in Europe.

Meshing human rights with diplomacy and with British business interests is complicated and often contradictory work, but at least our new Foreign Secretary is making a start.

Yours truly,
DENIS MACSHANE, House of Commons. May 14.

From Mr Geraldine O'Callaghan

Sir, Simon Jenkins is right to point out the current double standards of banning the possession of certain firearms in Britain whilst continuing to export them abroad. However, this discrepancy between domestic and foreign policy is a hangover from the Conservative Government, and all indications are that Labour plans to address these "moral ambiguities".

Concerns about the Conservative Government's policy of exporting weapons deemed unacceptable for civilians in Britain were repeatedly raised by the Labour Party front bench (both in the Commons and the Lords) during the recent debates on firearms legislation. The Conservative Government rejected Labour requests that weapons prohibited by the 1987 Firearms Act would not be exported abroad. It also rejected amendments proposed by Labour to ensure the destruction of such weapons which would have taken them permanently out of circulation.

The increasing availability of small arms is a key factor in the perpetuation of violence around the world — both in conflicts and in civil society. If, when drafting new firearms legislation, the Labour Government proposes to destroy prohibited weapons rather than export them, this consistent (and ethical) stance between domestic and foreign policy will surely be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE O'CALLAGHAN (Weapons trade analyst, British American Security Information Council, 20 Embankment Place, WC2. May 14.

Good at games

From Ms Anne E. Abel Smith

Sir, If Libby Purves (article, "Boys need watching", May 13) wishes to witness the "channelling [of] vast physical energy into permissible physical skills", she need look no further than the playing fields of English preparatory schools.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE ABEL SMITH, 11 Meadow Road, SW1. May 15.

An expanded role for British Legion

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, I share Mr Nick Evelingh's concern for the future of the Royal British Legion (letter, May 14) and welcome his initiative. I support his suggestion for the inclusion of those who now serve the community, but there is one group who remain unrecognised for their wartime service — the Bevin Boys.

Conscripted under the National Service Act they were the only people so mobilised who did not serve in the Armed Services. But despite the arduous and dangerous nature of their national service they received no demob suit, no pension and no medal.

Churchill said of them:

While some might say "I fought with the Eighth Army" and others that they served in HM Submarines, they could say, with equal pride and equal right, "I cut the coal".

A welcome gesture by the Royal British Legion would be to include representatives of the Bevin Boys in the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday following the service attended by Her Majesty, and to invite them to attend the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall on the previous evening.

Yours sincerely,

LEWIN.

House of Lords.

May 14.

From the Earl Haig

Sir, Mr Evelingh is pointing in the right direction. The Royal British Legion is a force for good, but a reduction in its ranks is inevitable unless a proportion of non-ex-service members are enrolled and a recruitment drive for younger ex-service men is carried out.

By the year 2005 the youngest men who saw active service in the 1939-45 war will be 80. By 2015 the last men who did National Service will reach the same age. So by 2015 the ex-service element in our population will be relatively small.

However, while there is a need, our pension and welfare work will continue for all ex-service people and for their dependants, irrespective of whether they are members of the Legion. But just as important is the spirit of caring which is fostered by

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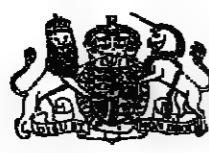
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COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 17: The Duke of Kent, President, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, this afternoon attended the Football Association's Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium, Middlesbrough.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 18: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Music in Country Churches, this evening attended a concert in Westminster Abbey and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk (Sir Timothy Colman KBE).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 18: The Duke of York arrived in New York, United States of America, this evening.

Luncheons

HM Lord High Commissioner Lord Macfarlane of Beardsden. Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Lady Macfarlane, gave a luncheon on Saturday at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Among those present were:

The Lord Chancellor and Lady Irvine of Lairg, the Duke of Argyle, Sir Russell and Lady Hillman, Sir Michael and Lady Forbes Macpherson, the Very Rev John and Mrs McIndoe, Mr and Mrs John Robertson, Miss Elizabeth and Mr and Mrs Kenneth McLaren and Mr and Mrs Kenneth McClelland and Mr and Mrs Kenneth Nicolson.

HM Lord High Commissioner

Lord Macfarlane of Beardsden. Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Lady Macfarlane, gave a luncheon yesterday at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Among those present were:

The Earl and Countess of Erroll, Lord and Lady Strathclyde, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT, and Lady Ross, Mr and Mrs Forbes Macpherson, Mr Alastair Dunlop, Mr and Mrs Gilmour, Mr and Mrs John Robertson, Dr and Mrs Kenneth McLaren and Mr and Mrs Kenneth Nicolson.

Wolfson History Prizes 1996

Keith Thomas, FBA, Chairman of the Judges, and Trustees of the Wolfson Foundation hosted a reception held at Claridge's on Thursday for the presentation of the Wolfson History Prizes 1996. Awards went to Dr Orlando Figes for his book published in 1994, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1921*; Jonathan Cope and to Professor Eric J. Hobsbawm, FBA, for his distinguished contribution to the writing of history over a number of years.

Nature notes

Most of the swifts are now back, circling high: when it rains, they will fly long distances to sunny regions where there are still plenty of insects in the air. Swifts have begun nesting in barn rafters: they will swoop through a narrow entrance in the roof without faltering. Cuckoos are laying their eggs in the nests of their three favourite victims: hedge sparrows, meadow pippins and reed warblers. The cuckoos lay one large egg in each nest that they select, and when their chick hatches it throws out all the host bird's eggs or



The cuckoo

chicks. In the woods, there are flourishing patches of bugle, which has whorls of bright blue flowers around a spiky stem. The flowers have buds to shelter the pollen and a lower lip for insects to alight. Another woodland flower of the same family is yellow archangel: it too, has whorls of yellow flowers with spots of brown on the lip. Many fields are full of buttercups, which can grow as tall as three feet. Common blue butterflies with sky-coloured wings are chasing each other over the opening red clover.

DJM

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

DEATHS

BIRTHS

COURTHARD

On April 27th 1997 at Penitent Hospital, to Andrew (née Reynolds) and Jennifer, a son, William Thomas.

DAVIS On May 15th 1997 to Tracy Hampton and partner Simon a special son Tim. Simon.

FARHADIAN On 15th May 1997 at 197, 21, Charlton, 2nd Connaught and Richard a daughter Sarah Louise a sister for James.

PARKER On 11th May, to Caroline (née Beales) and Richard, a daughter, Anna Madeline.

PROCTOR On May 10th 1997 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Christopher and Tim, the gift of a son, Charles William Moultrie, a brother for Anna.

WALTERS On May 16th to Michael and Linda Boase and Nicholas a daughter Rebecca Sophie, a sister for Charlotte.

DEATHS

BALFOUR Tom on May 11th 1997 at Friern Hospital, Esher. Beloved husband, father and grandfather, died peacefully after a long illness.

BURTON - Dr K.L. Burton, 84, MRCGP, retired Consultant Physician, General Hospital, St. George's, London, died peacefully on May 11th 1997. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

COOK - Dr K.L. Cook, 84, MRCGP, retired Consultant Physician, General Hospital, St. George's, London, died peacefully on May 11th 1997. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

DEATHS

DRUMMOND - Dr K.L. Drummond, 84, MRCGP, retired Consultant Physician, General Hospital, St. George's, London, died peacefully on May 11th 1997. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

FRASER - Dr K.L. Fraser, 84, MRCGP, retired Consultant Physician, General Hospital, St. George's, London, died peacefully on May 11th 1997. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

GRANT - Dr K.L. Grant, 84, MRCGP, retired Consultant Physician, General Hospital, St. George's, London, died peacefully on May 11th 1997. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

HODGKINSON - Miss Shirley Hodgkinson, 84, died peacefully on May 11th 1997 at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mary's Church, 100, St. Mary's Street, London, EC1. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

JOHNSON - Dr K.L. Johnson, 84, MRCGP, retired Consultant Physician, General Hospital, St. George's, London, died peacefully on May 11th 1997. Services at the United Reformed Church, Newington, on Friday 16th May at 1.30pm. Family, friends and relatives are invited to Terby and District Funeral Services, 01837 315000.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM COLE

William Cole, LVO, Master of the Music at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, 1954-94, died on May 9 aged 87. He was born on October 9, 1909.

If musicians have a reputation for longevity, it is because of veteran practitioners such as William Cole, who at the age of 85 was still playing the organ with youthful zest and directing the choir at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. He had served there as Master of the Music for 40 years.

During his life he made a notable contribution to the music profession in many spheres: as a respected educator, conductor, organist, examiner, author and valued member of numerous committees.

He received his musical training at St Olave's Grammar School and at the Royal Academy of Music. It was to the latter that he returned, after war service in the Air Ministry, to teach harmony and composition and to give music history lectures for 17 years. Concurrently he lectured at the Royal Academy of Dancing.

It is, however, as a choral conductor that Cole will be chiefly remembered. From 1947 to 1963 he was conductor of the People's Palace Choral Society, and in 1954 he faced the formidable task of succeeding Ralph Vaughan Williams, the greatly-loved founder, and for 48 years the conductor, of the Leith Hill Musical Festival.

That challenge was made less daunting by reason of Cole's long association with Dorking: he had been organist of the parish church of St Martin and director of music at Dorking County School in 1930, and subsequently went on to conduct the choirs of Holmwood, Epsom and Dorking at the festival.



William Cole with choristers of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

Moreover, he was the natural successor to Vaughan Williams, having served as his assistant conductor for seven years and enjoyed his close friendship. On handing over to 'Bill' Cole, Vaughan Williams wrote: 'He is in complete touch with the tradition that has grown up in the last fifty years, but his influence will be no

dead hand' upon its future development. Our festival will grow into something greater than we now know.'

This prophecy was fulfilled. During the next 23 years Cole conducted 80 choral works by 35 composers, in addition to more than 400 motets, madrigals and part-songs.

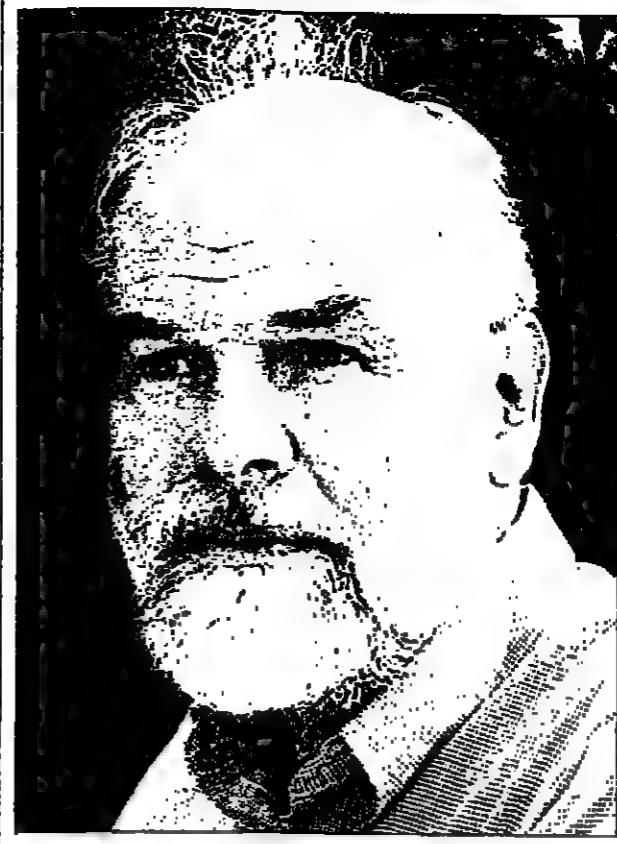
His broad knowledge of the musical profession, coupled with his sagacity and business acumen, enabled him to give valuable service to several cultural bodies. For many years he served as the president of the Surrey County Music Association and of the London Association of Organists; as a member of the governing committee of the Royal Choral Society; and as honorary secretary of the Royal Philharmonic Society.

Up until his death he was still an active member of the council of the Royal College of Organists, of which he had served as president and treasurer, and of the Musicians Benevolent Fund, of which he had long been a member of the executive committee. His service as Master of the Music of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, in the Strand, brought him appointment as LVO in 1988.

Bil Cole's great interest outside music was stained glass. It was a subject on which he wrote with authority in several learned journals, having built up a valuable private collection. His last published work was *A Catalogue of Netherlandish and North European roundels in Britain* (1993), which is regarded as being the standard work on the subject. Previous books had been: *Rudiments of Music* (1951), a chapter in *The Ballet in Britain* (1962) on the development of British ballet music and *The Form of Music* (1964).

Cole was an enthusiastic member of the Garrick Club, and served on a number of its key committees. He is survived by the three daughters of his first marriage to Elizabeth Caw, who died in 1942, and by the son born to his second wife Winifred, who died in 1991. He took special delight in the knowledge that his grandson was in the music profession, serving as an assistant organist at Westminster Cathedral.

PETER WINCH



Peter Winch, philosopher, died on April 27 aged 71. He was born on January 14, 1926.

PETER WINCH was a distinguished and influential philosopher who, with his very first book, *The Idea of a Social Science* (1958), produced one of the classic works of postwar philosophy. An important interpreter of Wittgenstein, of whose unpublished papers he became a trustee, he was a wide-ranging and incisive critical thinker, who made notable contributions to many areas of contemporary thought. Whether his subject was ethics or anthropology, he combined philosophical acumen with impressive intellectual vigour, high seriousness and vividness and wit.

In his collections of essays *Ethics and Action* (1975) and *Trying to Make Sense* (1987; German ed. 1992) Winch reveals the deep malaise of generalisation in moral philosophy and elsewhere. He inherited from Wittgenstein and Rhee a sense of the wonderfulness of our ordinary surroundings and the need to rescue them from metaphysical distortion. For the most part, his challenges went unanswered, but they constitute a far-reaching critique of prevailing trends in contemporary philosophy.

Winch lectured widely in Europe as well as in America. His book *The Just Balance* (1989) discusses the work of the remarkable French thinker, Simone Weil. He showed parallels between philosophical traditions thought to be far apart.

Winch edited many collections and contributed to many books and journals. From 1965 to 1971 he was the editor of *Analysis*. He was also a fine translator and recently completed his revised edition of Wittgenstein's *Culture and Value*.

His distinction had been recognised on both sides of the Atlantic. He was president of the Aristotelian Society, 1980-81, and of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, 1995-96. He was a Fellow of King's College, London, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and of the University of Wales, Swansea. He was Visiting Research Fellow at the Academy of Finland and at Abo Akademi in 1993, where his close friend, Lars Herzenberg, is Professor of Philosophy.

Dedication to discussion was characteristic of Peter Winch as a writer and teacher: a discussion in which his acumen and honesty endeared him greatly to his students and colleagues. Music meant a great deal in his life, and this was deepened through his relationship with his close friend Helen Guyer. In 1989 Raimond Gaïa edited a festschrift in his honour, *Values and Understanding*. Recently, he had been working on Lessing's discussion of the Resurrection and a book on Authority.

Peter Winch is survived by his wife Erika and two sons, one of whom is also a philosopher.

BRIGADIER JOHN BAGNALL



Brigadier John Bagnall, OBE, MC, died on April 17 aged 76. He was born on August 29, 1920.

A SHREWD intellect and an engaging sense of fun were just two of many qualities that won John Bagnall the admiration of a huge circle of friends from every age group. His gift of leadership and his enthusiasm inspired generations of young people throughout a long and distinguished career.

It began in February 1940 when John Gordon Bagnall was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery at a time when the 'Shop', the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, had been evacuated to Larkhill; such was his exceptional ability that he was retained as an instructor. He next joined the 12th (Honourable Artillery Company) Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in 6th Armoured Division, and shortly afterwards was continuously in action for the six months it took to complete the North African campaign.

The regiment was out of the battle line until the battle for Sicily had been won, and during that time it was mechanised with self-propelled guns. The 6th Armoured Division then moved to Italy, and the regiment fought in many strongly contested battles, where

Bagnall distinguished himself by his coolness under fire and the example and encouragement he gave to his men.

After the assault on the Gustav Line, he was awarded the Military Cross. The citation reads: 'On May 15, 1944, while supporting A Squadron 17/21 Lancers, two of their Troops ran into trouble from concealed anti-tank guns and four tanks were knocked out. Captain Bagnall's tank was immobilised by a shell. Although close to the enemy and under mortar and shell fire in his tank for the five hours of remaining daylight, he continued directing the fire of his guns. After dark, his tank was recovered. It returned the next day and destroyed another anti-tank gun.'

When the war ended in 1945, the regiment moved to Austria, where it returned to its earliest wartime tasks of guarding vulnerable points, in addition to sorting out the unfortunate displaced persons of every central European nationality — the flocks and jetsam of war. There were also 3,600 horses belonging to Cossacks who had fought on the German side to be taken over. Bagnall was nominated as their horse officer.

Alongside many other young men with battle experience, Bagnall then joined the first postwar long Gunnery

course at Woolwich, and made up of the old and the bold.

Bagnall continued to help others in his retirement. A keen and expert sailor, he navigated the service boat GB II in the London to Sydney leg of the *Financial Times* Clipper Race and, when he was asked to take over as the honorary organiser of the London Sailing Project, he became a sort of Pied Piper bringing out the best in young people from widely differing backgrounds, some of them very underprivileged. A countryman through and through, he was a most knowledgeable ornithologist.

He was also a tower of strength at local events in Dorset helping the Riding for the Disabled branch, the Pony Club and the Royal British Legion.

He is survived by his wife Sheila, whom he married in 1947, and by three daughters.

Early in the 1960s Yépes began to feel that the traditional six strings limited his approach. He had the Spanish luthier José Ramírez make him an instrument with four extra bass strings which vibrated in sympathy, like the lowest strings of the lute, with those being plucked. This instrument, he claimed, enabled him to arrange the piano music of Manuel de Falla and Isaac Albéniz.

He was successful in persuading a number of composers to produce works for him, among them Maurice Ohana, Joaquín Rodrigo and the dodecaphonist Bruno Maderna who wrote *Y despierte*, inspired by a poem of Lorca. Julian Bream played one such instrument in the early part of his career before abandoning it, feeling, as did many others, that limiting the number of strings enhances the instrument's expressiveness. Segovia, disliking the instrument's richer, heavier sound, was more outspoken: 'The only thing that this 10-string monstrosity accomplishes is to transform the guitar from a voluptuous femme into a matronly hausfrau.'

Narciso García Yépes was born in Lorca, in southwest Spain, into a poor rural family. His father gave him his

first guitar at the age of four, and he took to it immediately.

Two years later he began to study seriously, travelling by mule every day to a music school in the nearby town of Murcia. At 13 he went to the Conservatoire of Music in Valencia with Rafael Ballester. Having laid the foundation of a secure technique he preferred thereafter to study with non-guitarists, most notably the pianist and composer Vicente Asencio. This unorthodox approach to interpretation lent subtle piano-like qualities to the work of Yépes.

In 1946 Ataulfo Argenta, the conductor of the National Orchestra of Spain, invited him to Madrid, and the following year he made his debut as soloist with them playing Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, a cornerstone of the guitar repertoire. His use, unique among guitarists, of the fourth finger of the left hand, greatly facilitated the rapid scale passages characteristic of such music.

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Early in the 1960s Yépes

NEWS

Police investigate 'election bribe'

■ Tony Blair faced his first crisis as Prime Minister as police began investigating allegations that Mohammed Sarwar, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, paid a £5,000 bribe to a rival candidate to try to boost his general election vote.

The political career of Mr Sarwar, 44, Britain's first Muslim MP, was in doubt less than three weeks after he was elected with a majority of 2,914. Pages 1, 2

Tough targets for water firms

■ Sweeping changes in the way the water industry is run will be announced today by the Government. The measures are expected to include the setting of tough, legally binding, leak-reduction targets, a requirement that all companies should offer a free repair and leak-detection service, free water audits for households and a water saving trust. Page 1

Holocaust records

Decry of German police and SS telegraph traffic detailing the slaughter of Jews across Russia and Ukraine in the Second World War will be released by the Public Record Office. Page 1

Designer Britain

Tired old Britain has a new brand image, and the first things to go should be the national flag and the national anthem, according to a design consultancy which specialises in buffing up corporate identities. Page 3

Elephant talk

Elephants communicate using deep rumbling calls too low for the human ear to hear, research in the Amboseli National Park, Kenya, has shown. Page 4

Housewives' choice

Volvo-loads of middle-class housewives are taking supplies to the "eco-warriors" trying to stop the construction of Manchester Airport's second runway. Page 5

Into the unknown

A British climber plans to be the first to scale a 23,124 ft peak in Tibet that nobody in the West knew existed. Page 6

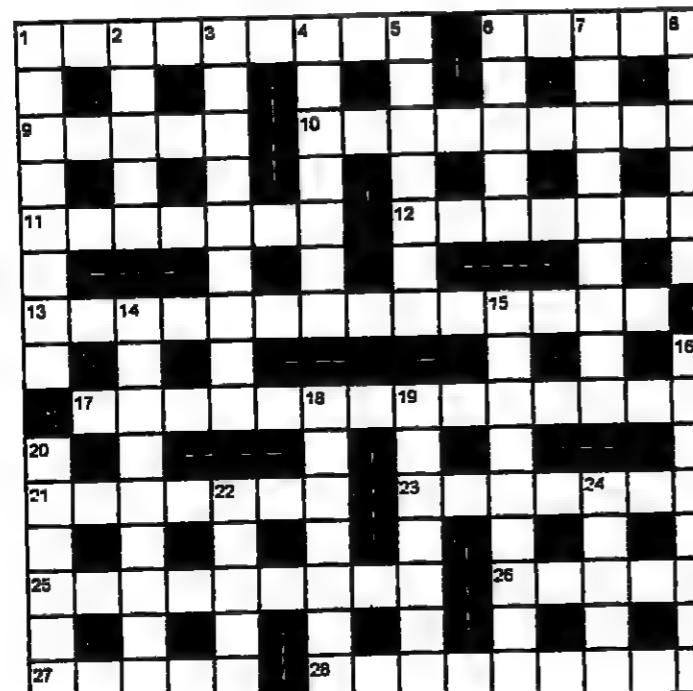
Saintly path

Fifty pilgrims on a journey to retrace the steps of St Augustine began with the atmosphere of a jolly coach outing and a lunch menu combining spaghetti al pesto with roast beef. Page 7

Cantona sends himself off

■ Eric Cantona offered the most unpredictable twist last night to a career of colourful surprises, by announcing his retirement from football. Such is the cult of the Manchester United forward, he has transcended the sport, and his decision invoked disbelief and anguish amongst the supporters who idolise him. Pages 1, 3, 25

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,483



ACROSS
 1 It's seldom problematic for seekers of fresh air (9).
 6 Island state captured by specialist troops (5).
 9 Hot drink, say, available in Students' Union (5).
 10 Game in France that includes a practice session (9).
 11 Islanders giving old ruler no difficulty, we hear (7).
 12 Deadlock produced by one's admission of decline (7).
 13 Left strong law group in meeting showing composure (4-10).
 17 Promotion rep got, including imposing new semi (14).
 21 Young thug covering chimney in Scotland (7).
 23 Many attempt to comprehend point of drawing (7).
 25 Lyrical arrangement for harps poem for singing (9).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,482 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

DOWN
 1 Obvious requirement of customs officers (8).
 2 Pronouncement of group formed to defend drink (5).
 3 Method of painting producing beastly complaint (9).
 4 They may be numbered among directors' successes (7).
 5 Disease developed in coastal region (7).
 6 Fight for a morsel of food (5).
 7 Rock three leading characters set up as distance marker (9).
 8 Ancient coin, sovereign, pocketed by second scoundrel (6).
 14 Old soldier, e.g. in royal resort (9).
 15 In some respect, a clever display (9).
 16 Extra canvas as ship crossing river meets trouble (8).
 18 Vagrant girl restricted by lack of waterproof clothing (7).
 19 Criminal wrongly put in charge over modern technology (7).
 20 Innocent child giving revolutionary a problem (6).
 22 Scientific apparatus giving 2 a change of heart (5).
 24 Come on stage to record (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 43

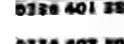
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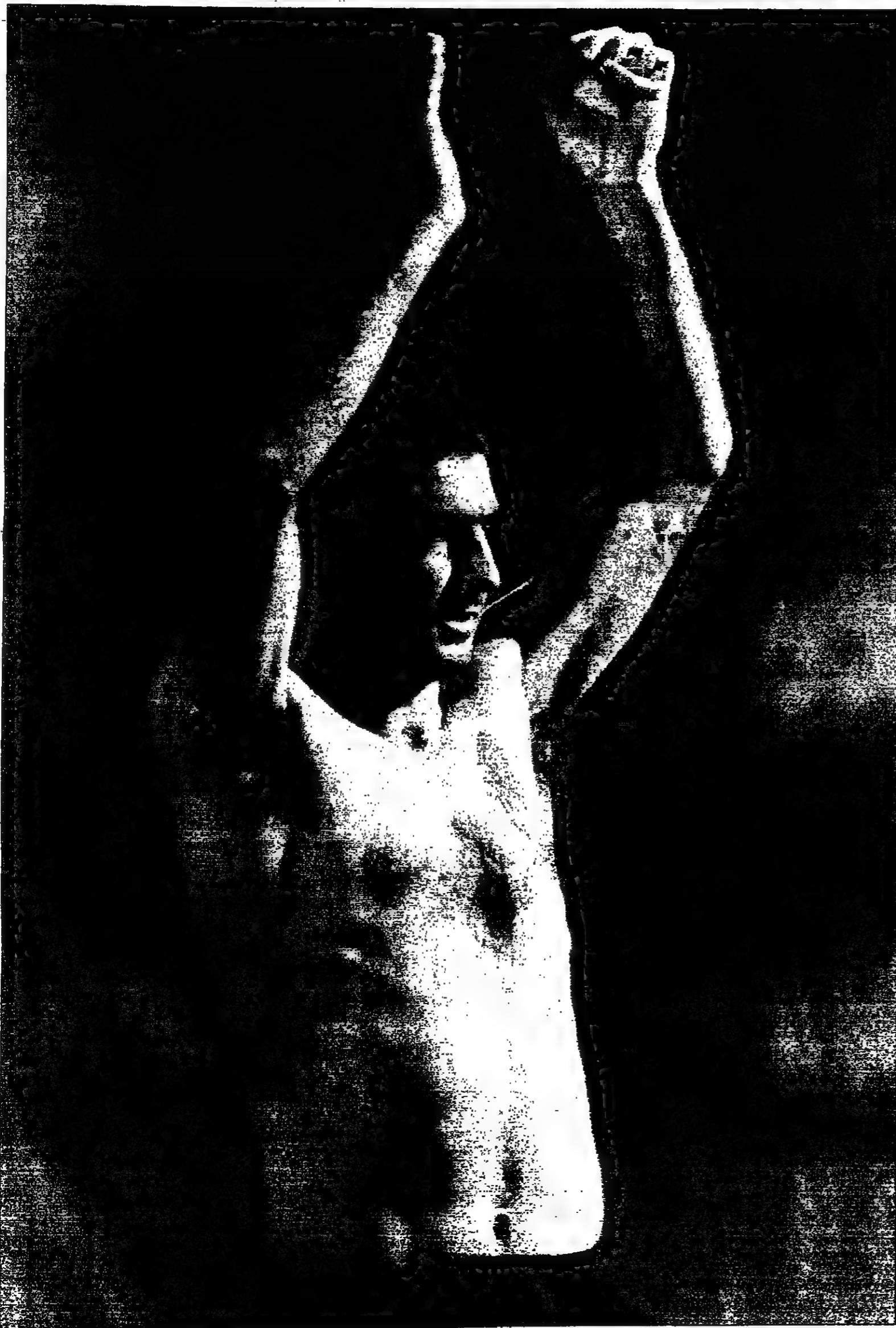
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 19 1997

FRENCHMAN BIDS ADIEU TO OLD TRAFFORD



Cantona, the pivotal figure in Manchester United's dominance of the mid-90s, confounded the football world yesterday with his decision to retire

Cantona cuts short great adventure

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY have always been something of the icon in the iconoclast that is Eric Cantona and yesterday the supremely talented French footballer went the way of so many fragile, ephemeral cultural heroes before him when he chose to leave at the top, not fade away.

Whether he realised that his powers were on the wane, that he had outgrown his usefulness as a catalyst for Manchester United, as the model for the club's young players, or whether he sensed that his age — he will be 31 this week — was gradually robbing him of his nonconformity that gave him his spark, it was indicative of the influence he has had on English football that the shock waves of the news should overshadow the FA Cup Final on Saturday.

The announcement of the retirement of the man who has bestrode the English game in the Nineties came from Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, at 3.30pm yesterday and was treated with the solemnity usually accorded to the passing of a monarch.

For the fans who have idolised him, the ones who have hated him, the media who have written exhaustively about him and praised him extravagantly, the sight of the famous upturned collar of the red No 7 shirt seems to have gone forever, and with it the sense of dangerous unpredictability and excitement he brought to a football world dominated by young clones.

The marketing men will miss him, too. The advertisement that featured a large black and white picture of him under the statement "1966 was a great year for English football, Eric was born" was one of the most successful in Nike's history.

There is a possibility that he may repeat of his decision. He retired once before in France in 1991 after being banned for two months for yelling "idiot" in the faces of each member of a disciplinary panel quizzing him over his sending-off for throwing the ball at a referee.

Still, the disbelief with which the announcement of his retirement, made by Martin Edwards, the United chairman, was greeted, brought to mind the wide-eyed astonish-

ERIC CANTONA IN ENGLAND



LEEDS UNITED
Appearances: 35
Goals: 14
Honours: Football League
Championship: 1992
Charity Shield: 1992



MANCHESTER UNITED
Appearances: 185
Goals: 82
Honours: FA Premier League: 1993
FA Carling Premiership: 1994, 1996, 1997
FA Cup: 1994, 1995
Charity Shield: 1993, 1994, 1996
Footballer of the Year (Players) 1994
Footballer of the Year (Writers) 1996

ment on Merseyside that followed the news that Bill Shankly had resigned as manager of Liverpool in the 1970s.

The news comes against a background of speculation that Cantona's powers had begun to wane and that United were on the verge of using him more selectively, possibly by replacing him with Juninho, for whom Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has professed great admiration.

There were whispers yesterday that Cantona had been unhappy about the terms of a

eight-month ban for delivering a kung-fu kick to a Crystal Palace fan at Selhurst Park on January 25.

It was thought then that United would cut their losses, that the stigma would be such that Cantona would never play in England again but Ferguson stayed loyal to the Frenchman, even travelling to Paris to meet him in a restaurant and talk him out of asking for a transfer request.

At the end of that season, United parted company with the likes of Paul Ince and Andrei Kanchelskis and put

their faith in home-grown young players such as Gary and Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and David Beckham. Cantona, after his return that October, was the bridge between the past and the future and helped them to the double.

This year, he led United to their fourth championship in five years as captain but despite some superb moments, like his individual goal against Sunderland at Old Trafford, his performances dipped below the sublime level supporters had been used to. When he played poorly in United's European Cup semi-final defeat last month, some even said that he should be sold.

The die-hard United fans, though, never lost faith with him. The last issue of one of their fanzines, *United We Stand*, printed a picture of him on its front page under the headline "Red Till Dead". In a footballing sense, at least, they may have been right.

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"United owe the Frenchman a huge debt of gratitude"

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LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

The boozing of the Duke and Duchess of Kent was the bit that worried me on Saturday. "I had no idea the North East was so anti-monarchist," I yelled to my companion in Wembley Stadium's Olympic Gallery, as below us 35,000 Middlesbrough fans boozed, hissed and whistled at ear-splitting volume.

What grudge could this lot possibly hold against the Kents? I racked my brains. Personally, I was once held up at a hairdresser's by a flying visit from the Duchess, but good grief, I forgave her. In any case, it is hard to believe that any one woman, however well coiffed, could pull the same me-first trick on the entire population of Middlesbrough.

All soon became clear, however, when they started chanting "Three points! Three points! Three points!" Ah-ha. Their odium was directed at the big chaps from the FA, and not the Kents at all. This was a political demonstration, a demand for justice, and as such almost as uncalled-for as the boozing of defenceless nobs.

Middlesbrough really believe they should get their three points back, you see. But it won't wash. In 1752 (as we all recall), something similar happened when the calendar was changed — Britain went to bed on September 2, and woke up on the fourteenth. Suspecting a dastardly cheat, the populace ran about yelling "Give us back our eleven days!" Well, the three-points cause looks as futile as that one, to me.

But to the match, the match! What a fab opening goal, eh? Any player who wears his socks over his knees in that splendid medieval fashion is obviously a chap with imaginative gifts. Poses for stained-glass windows in his spare time, that man. But it helped Di Matteo find the space for that first goal, I think, that the infuriating Emerson was playing his musing-the-bus football, of which there has been far too much recently.

What happens, you see, is that Emerson accelerates ("Wait for me!"), then realises that the bus is about to draw away ("Ding! Ding!"), and



Middlesbrough fans show their anger at the loss of three points deducted by the FA, in a protest that soured the opening ceremonies at Wembley

instantly gives up, with a petulant gesture. It is as if he hears that "Ding! Ding!" in his head, truly. Emerson missed the bus right at the beginning, when the ball was passed across him to Di Matteo, which is why I mention it. I also mention it because, presumably, he won't be playing in England any more.)

Everyone is saying it was not a great Cup Final, but in terms of the team-skills on show, it was certainly absorbing. And in terms of the result, obviously, it was more than satisfactory. A smile from Ruud Gullit is hard-won these days, and, on the final whistle on Saturday, we get beams of joy, positive beams.

But, while his team celebrated wildly with body surfs on the pitch, and Zola clowned for the adoring crowd, Gullit still held back modestly in his dark suit, watching pensively from a distance. Was this just force of habit? I watched him through binoculars, and he

obligingly struck that dark, still, thrilling romantic attitude which may simply disguise a bout of indigestion, but which looks impressively like, dammit, he is having thoughts that lie too deep for tears again.

The man sitting to my left

never quite entered the spirit of the occasion, and I will admit I was concerned on his behalf. He was young and Australian, and had paid a tout £400 for his ticket, so you would think he would have made the most of it. But it was hard work maintaining his enthusiasm. "Royal Marines!" I said, encouragingly, pointing. "Top military band. A real privilege. Cliff Richard, look! Sir Cliff." It was important to me, you see, that he got his money's worth, even though, technically, his payment of £400 for a ticket was not my fault at all.

But, as he had never heard

the tune of *Land of Hope and Glory* before, I'm afraid I gave up, and left him to his own devices. Two very aggressive and foul-mouthed Middlesbrough fans in the row behind made a point of intimidating him (they scared the daylights out of me), and he left very promptly at the close of play.

never experienced the end of a

season before. Despite the glorious antics of the winners on Saturday (and didn't they look handsome?) there seems a lack of ceremony about the way it all screches to a standstill. Are there no formal goodbyes for all those foreigners who this week (presumably) go home in disgrace or bounce off in high dudgeon, or limp off in a beany-hat?

Julinho said on *Match of the Day* that he must do what's best for his career (career), and everybody accepts that. We

wish his career all the best, and understand perfectly that it is a separate entity in its own right. As for Emerson, how-ever, we have but one message: Hey, Emerson, don't miss the bus this time, ha ha!

Meanwhile, most of those happy foreigners at Chelsea look safe and sound, which is nice. Leboeuf should let his hair grow back. Petrescu

should realise how cute he is. And Vialli should cheer up, because (as we all know) Dennis Wise loves him. I particularly love the way Zola's kit hangs quite differently from everyone else's, reminiscent of being the one kid at school whose mum optimistically made the school uniform from approximately the right material to approximately the right pattern, and did not get away with it.

On a personal note, I cannot help thinking that, a year ago, Zola was the author of *General Emerson*, an impervious American philosopher, Newton, the greatest scientist of all time, and Hughes the poet laureate. So, a lot can happen to a girl's perceptions in a year. When Jimmy Hill said on the BBC's coverage that it was nice to see Ruud Gullit well-dressed for once, I found myself gasping. "And what on earth do you know about that?" Oh dear. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Emerson takes a slow walk into ignominy

STEVE McMANAMAN



on the sad tale of two Brazilians

After watching the FA Cup Final on Saturday, my overwhelming feeling was one of sympathy for Middlesbrough. I don't know what they have done to upset the Gods, but it must have been serious because the fates have conspired against them spectacularly this season.

After all they have been through you would expect them to get a break. Not a bit of it. Everything that could possibly have gone wrong in the Cup Final did go wrong — and then went wrong even more.

I am sure that, after the disappointment of relegation, and the inquest into that Bryan Robson was drilling into his side the absolute necessity to get off to a steady, assured start. I can hear his pre-match talk now. "Keep it tight, keep the ball." What a calamity, then, to concede a poor goal as early as they did.

Football is as much mental as it is physical, and it is impossible to exaggerate the trauma of relegation. It would have had a dramatic impact on the confidence of the Middlesbrough players. However much they attempted to repair the damage in midweek, it would have all gone out of the window as soon as that goal went in.

I bet there were plenty of Middlesbrough players who started to think that it would not be their day. That feeling would have been magnified when first Ravanelli and then Museu went off injured.

Even after such a disastrous start, things still continued to get worse for Middlesbrough. *Match of the Day* cameras showed that Festo should have received the benefit of the doubt when he scored just before half-time. Instead, an over-eager linesman ruled off-side. It was never going to be Middlesbrough's day.

Of course bad luck was not the only reason for their downfall. Chelsea's tactics played their part, and they appeared stronger, and more solid, in the areas that mattered. They were disciplined at the back, and powerful too. Their game-plan appeared to be centred around strangling the creative life out of Juninho and Emerson, and it worked because they took an early control of the midfield for both of the Chelsea goals.

For the first, they enabled Juninho to never get near enough to Di Matteo to make a challenge. For the second, Emerson lost the ball in midfield and they all stood and watched instead of chasing back.

Middlesbrough will lose players during the summer, and what they must do now is regroup quickly and bring in the sort of players who will provide a positive note in the first division. After the massive disappointment of this season, it would be easy for them to wallow for the next couple of years. For the sake of Bryan Robson, who is a thoroughly decent man and manager, I hope that they can avoid such a fate.

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Juninho first to cry tears for Middlesbrough fears

David Maddock sees the emotions of a big occasion overflow before and after the match

and it came at a very bad time.

The Brazilian cried, too, because he knew that he would be forced to leave Middlesbrough, despite a genuine affection for the club. The defeat on Saturday capped what he described as "the worst season of my life", and Juninho finally admitted that he would be leaving Teesside.

The most important thing for my career now is to be in the Brazilian squad," he said. "I must do the best thing for me to get into the squad, and I'm sorry for Middlesbrough but I don't think playing in the first division will get me that place."

Most pertinent of all, however, were the tears that trickled down the face of Juninho, not at Wembley, but at Elland Road the previous Sunday. Speaking after a painful Cup Final experience, he said it was a week ago that he realised what Middlesbrough had lost.

Despite a driving, irrepressible personal performance, Juninho felt that Chelsea had secured victory even before the game kicked off. "I cried not just for relegation, but for the effect it would have," he said. "The things that happened when we were relegated affected the team at Wembley. We could not expect to play well after all that had happened — our concentration was not right coming into the final

If Middlesbrough will now be forced, in the words of their captain, Nigel Pearson, to "face up to the reality of the situation that players will be leaving, and a new beginning must get under way", then Chelsea can suspend reality to come. There was a consensus among the players on Saturday that the Cup Final could be used as a foundation from which to project the club into the elite of English football.

That sentiment was voiced by Mark Hughes, the forward who now has a record four FA Cup winners' medals. He played in the Manchester United side that won the Cup in 1990, and he senses a similar pattern developing. "It seems the same to me as the first time we won the Cup at United under Alex Ferguson," he said. "We went on from there and never stopped winning things to become the best team in England. We must not let this opportunity go at Chelsea. There is the chance to do the same thing here and, if we can keep improving, keep getting quality players, then we really can do the same."

It was with misty eyes that he offered his thoughts, and soon the tears flowed once more, as Gianfranco Zola spoke of his gushing emotion at lifting the Cup. "It is one of the best moments of my career," he said.

This game is such an important one — the most important anywhere, and it is quite unbelievable the pressure that has built up over the last week. It is such a special moment for me, and I'm proud to be here in England." For Zola, the river of tears runs blue.

Robson misses the point in dignified performance

Oliver Holt believes the Middlesbrough manager is wrong to blame the FA for his team's relegation

ing the foreign lads," he said, "but it's amazing how everyone wants to buy them. I made mistakes because we got relegated and I will try to assess the season and see where it has gone wrong."

"The season has really been disappointing only because of the relegation. Losing in both finals was a disappointment, of course, but it was an achievement to get to them in the first place. If we had got another couple of points to keep us safe, people would have said what a tremendous season we had had."

It has been impossible not to admire Robson for his stoicism in the face of so much adversity, but, equally, it was hard to agree with him when he was asked if he had any regret, whether he would still lavish the suns he had on Ravanelli, Juninho, Emerson and Festo if he could be given a chance to start again, fighting back. "Everyone keeps knocking

corridors, there was anger amid the grieving of the Middlesbrough fans. Seething, it raced around with the thousands of departing fans, searching for any scapegoats it could find.

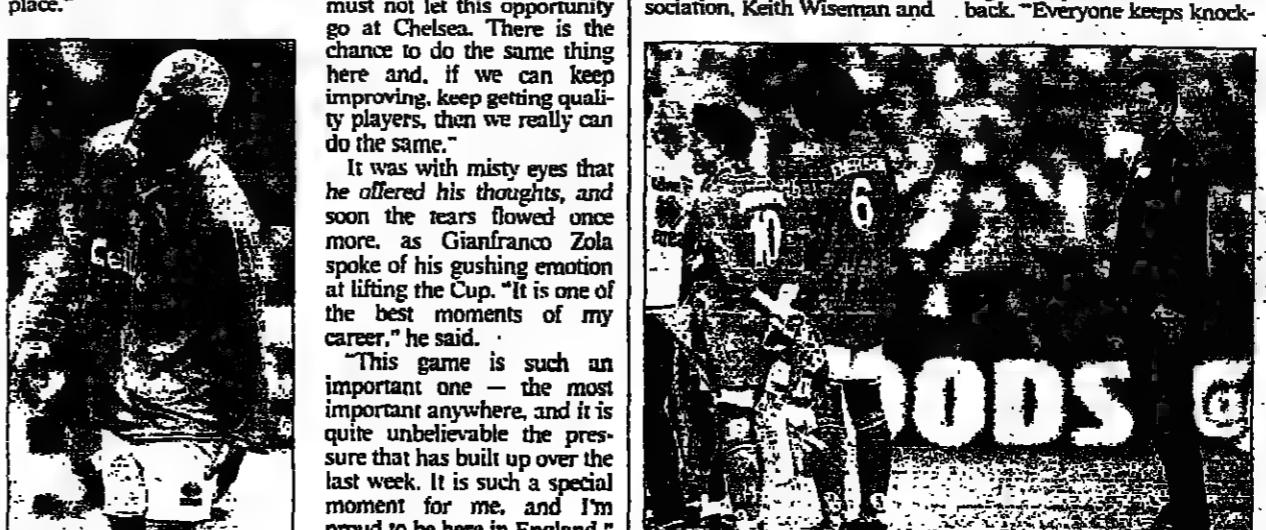
It alighted first on the executives of the Football Association, Keith Wismann and

Graham Kelly, mistakenly blaming them for the FA Premier League decision to dock Middlesbrough three points for failing to fulfil the fixture with Blackburn Rovers on December 21, which was the defining moment of their season. Then it turned to the media.

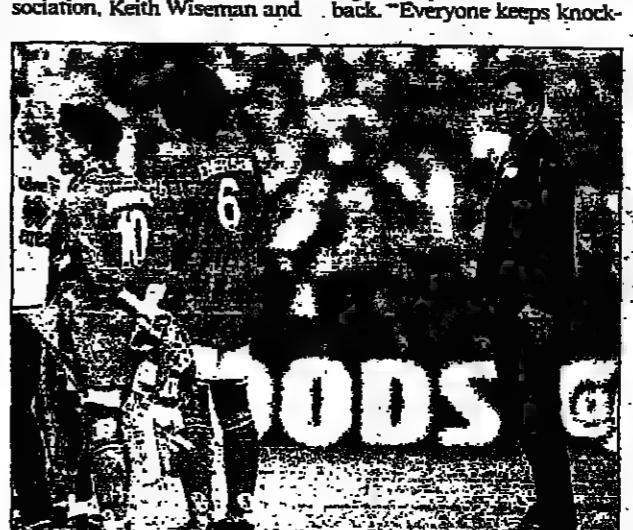
Robson exhibited a few tell-tale signs of the bitterness welling up inside him before, when he was asked if he had any regret, whether he would still lavish the suns he had on Ravanelli, Juninho, Emerson and Festo if he could be given a chance to start again, fighting back. "Everyone keeps knocking

Robson's failure was his inability to provide a competent supporting cast for the skeleton of superstars he bought, his willingness to surround them instead with Nationwide League journeymen.

That failure had nothing to do with the Premier League and cannot be blamed on the imagined jealousies of a southern-based media. If they learn that lesson, and prosper because of it, Middlesbrough will be welcomed back into the FA Carling Premiership with open arms.



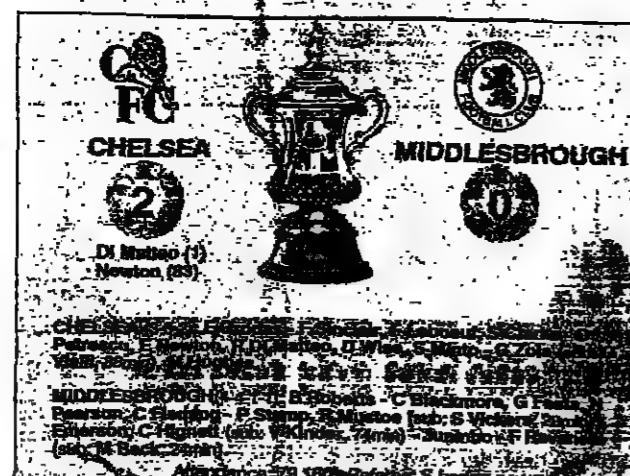
Ravanelli feels the pain



Have his Brazilians turned their backs on Robson?

Cup Final triumph promises new dawn for Stamford Bridge's cosmopolitan collection

Chelsea exorcise ghost of wasted years



By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GIANLUCA VIALLI had begged for five minutes, but Ruud Gullit gave him two. The Chelsea player-manager used the Italian's late entrance like a secret sign, a sort of footballing 'masonic handshake, to let the faithful know that, after 27 years of waiting for a major trophy, the celebrations at the end of the 116th FA Cup final could begin.

It was a romantic touch, a bit like Enzo Bearzot's sentimental sop to Franco Causio in the dying minutes of the 1982 World Cup final, a backwards nod to the flawed Chelsea tradition of Hudson, Osgood and Cooke, the flair players who were in their pomp when the Cup last came to the Fulham Road in 1970.

Gianfranco Zola, the creator of the decisive second goal, the man who has done so much to

inspire Chelsea this season, bowed in mock homage to Vialli as he made way for him. Vialli, a bit-part player since his compatriot arrived in west London, bowed back, and sprang on to the Wembley pitch for a brief taste of glory.

Zola punched the air with the delight of a man who has just volleyed a winner as he walked to the bench, and, a few hastily constructed moves later, it was all over. The blue, white and yellow sections of the ground to the right of the royal box erupted in flag-waving euphoria.

They exercised the best part of three decades of frustration in the next 45 minutes as the players complemented Roberto Di Matteo's fastest goal in an FA Cup Final at Wembley with one of the slowest laps of honour.

There was the traditional picture in front of the huge phalanx of photographers, there was the donning of scarves and hats thrown from the stands. And, as a finale, the whole squad linked hands across the pitch and ran from the halfway line to the goal-mouth before hurling themselves on to the floor.

Eventually, sated, they made their triumphal way back to the dressing-room to start again in private and spray champagne. "It's the yet," Dennis Wise, the captain, yelled as Gullit walked in with the Cup and the player-manager just smiled.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC ASPLAND

Rhapsody in blue: Di Matteo strikes the fastest goal in an FA Cup Final at Wembley before, below, launching into a running celebration with Zola, his Italian compatriot



Gullit: Cup romance



Gullit translates talent into triumph

Long after the dressing-rooms had emptied, Juninho and Gianfranco Zola, two players whose flair has transcended the English season, briefly embraced in the Wembley tunnel. "I congratulate you," Juninho said to Zola. "For your composure and your passing, you deserve to win the Cup."

With that they parted, Zola to the certainty that Chelsea have reinvigorated his standing in the Italy team. Juninho convinced that he must find another club because Middlesbrough cannot now help him to be a part of Brazil's defence of the World Cup next year.

As time began to run out, Juninho slipped a free kick through to Vickers, but his shot was blocked by Grodias, and seven minutes from time, Chelsea administered the coup de grace. Petrescu chipped a cross to the back post, Zola, who had had a quiet game, leapt into the air to back-heel it to the edge of the six-yard box and Newton forced it in.

At the end, the media feted Hughes, the first player this century to claim four FA Cup winner's medals. "Will that influence your contract talks?" someone asked. "Not really," Hughes said, "because I signed it yesterday."

By then, Ravanelli had limped off with a recurrence of the hamstring injury that ruled him out of Middlesbrough's relegation-run-in. Mustoe had fallen victim

cultures, the temperaments of all the players that he purchased on Chelsea's behalf. Bryan Robson, the doughty English warrior, chose talents from another world and, alas, seemed unable to integrate their skills into the physical and mental demands of the English game. Unkind as that may sound, kicking Robson when he is down, it is difficult to dispute. This cup final, containing more foreigners than Englishmen, was a tribute to Gullit.

The first foreign coach to win a significant domestic prize for an English team, he is a complex character. He admitted he was emotionally empty, completely drained by the build-up to Wembley.

Gullit, sometimes visited by self-doubt and vulnerability, had Ted Troost, his personal mentor, sitting behind him on the bench at Wembley. Indeed Troost, a practitioner of *haptotomie*, which combines meditation with psychology, has been in the background at Chelsea throughout Gullit's first year as player-coach. He was brought into the dressing-room to work with the players before the semi-final, and was a hidden but important part of the preparations for the final.

It is part of the humility of Gullit that, though he is able

ROB HUGHES



At Wembley

adviser, was good enough. But, as I saw the final come closer and closer, I wondered how we would deal with being made favourites.

"I remembered that Barcellona were favourites when I was at Milan, and we beat them 4-0. On the other hand, I was a part of Milan when we started favourites and beat Bucharest, also 4-0."

It actually goes back further, to moments in the 1988 European championship when Gullit and Marco Van Basten, benefited from the coaching of Troost. "We were like Formula One cars, and Ted was our mechanic."

It was Van Basten who put it. Last year, Troost also advised Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon tennis champion.

Gullit had already observed that bringing in foreigners was a two-way process. "The foreigners gave another view of what it is to be professional," Gullit said on Saturday. "But also the foreigners learnt from the English players."

As he spoke, Robson, defeated and contemplating the options of selling Juninho, Ravanelli and Emerson, passed by. A manager with the trauma, the obligation, of disassembling what he had attempted to build, with little option but to retrench around

dependable British souls who might, with effort and luck, bring Middlesbrough back to the FA Carling Premiership.

Robson sat silent and forlorn, through Wembley's humid and, for him, dark hour. Gullit, slightly out of character, had been on his feet before half-time, shouting to players too distant to hear. "They were playing the ball backwards, I wanted them to control the game by going forwards. It was a matter of attitude."

Indeed, and Troost, the man who had become his sounding board on attitude, concluded:

"This has been my first experience in England. I knew that here there is much stress on the physical, but I tried to speak with the players, to ask them to be more relaxed. You can do this best if you save something of your energy... and, even among the English, I found that they were open to dialogue on this."

Dialogue, in very nearly a dozen languages, lay behind the winning of the Cup. It already seems so long ago that Graham Taylor was pilloried at Wembley for introducing John Gardner as a psychologist to the England national side.

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CRICKET

Leatherdale proves an unlikely destroyer

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER. (Warwicks won toss): Worcester beat the Australians by five wickets

In contemplating the bowlers likely to trouble them on this tour, the Australians probably gave little thought to Gavin Haynes and David Leatherdale. Indeed, they may not even have heard of them. On a damp and murky morning in Worcester, however, the touring team discovered there is no shortage of old-fashioned English seam bowlers capable of making life difficult when conditions suit them.

The New Road pitch, having sweated under cover during the storms of recent nights, offered enough movement to make batmen constantly uncomfortable. The ball, also swinging appreciably in the heavy humidity and the Australians, put into bat, were dismissed inside 35 overs.

Few could have predicted the bowlers who would torment them. Haynes, who missed all of last season with a knee injury, took the first four wickets with the new ball before Leatherdale, very much an occasional bowler, medium of pace and pretensions, achieved the remarkable figures of five for ten in five overs. After an opening stand of 33, all ten Australian wickets fell for 88.

They fought back tenaciously in the field. Shane Warne's bowling and clouting being appreciated in equal measure, but their first defeat on tour could not be long delayed. A capacity crowd was heading happily home well before 5pm.

It may not cause sleepless nights in the touring camp but Mark Taylor, the beaten captain, was nonetheless stern-faced. "It was disappointing," he said. "We didn't bat well enough. These are the sort of conditions we may encounter again, so we have to learn. It is good to have suffered this early on, because it shows you cannot go into any game not prepared to tough it out."

Taylor began the day by scratching around for 14 overs for as many runs. This was not a negligible effort, as the ball darted around off the seam, but despite making runs in both the preceding games, Taylor still seems some way short of fluency. He had lost his first-wicket partner Greg Blewett, bowled off

his pads, before driving at Haynes, with bat remote from body, to give Steve Rhodes the first of his five catches behind the wicket.

The shots of the day were played by Michael Bevan — two consecutive straight-drives, struck on the up. The same over from Haynes cut him rudely short as he pushed at a ball that left him. Steve Waugh went in the same way, to the last ball of Haynes' unbroken spell, and the Australians were suddenly 78 for four.

Things did not improve. There was a brief hiatus while the left-handers, Langer and Gilchrist, restored order, though even this was punctuated by a rare missed catch by Graeme Hick, repriming Gilchrist at square leg.

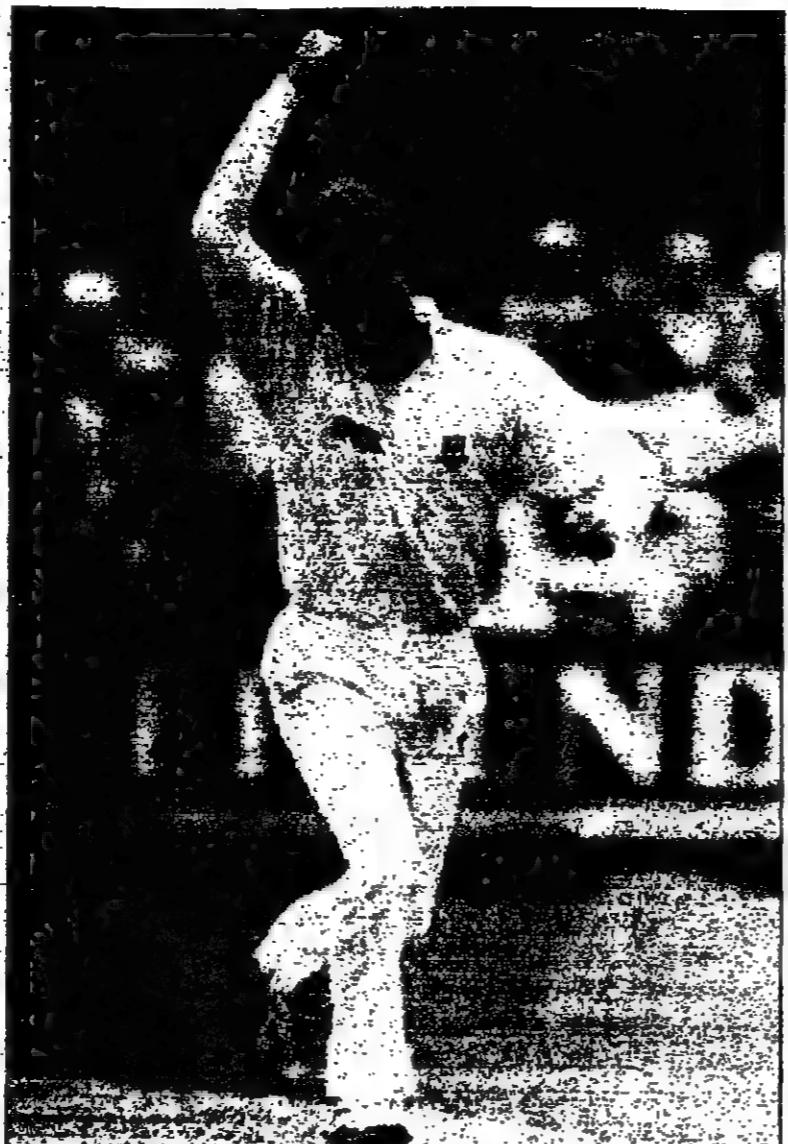
Leatherdale may have been mildly surprised when his captain summoned him to bowl but his second delivery saw off Langer, striking his head at being given leg-before on the front foot and he took a wicket in each succeeding over.

The last six wickets tumbled for 17 runs, in a spell that Leatherdale is unlikely to improve upon, no matter how long he plays the game. He maintained a decent off-side line and used the assistance wisely, but he will admit he was the beneficiary of some 'treasure strokes'.

The Australians now needed to take the field before the lunch interval, and a greater indignity ended the 13-over session — wicketless. Tom Moody, one of their own old boys, and Phil Weston expanded the opening stand to 58 before the loss of three wickets for seven raised the prospect of a competitive game.

Moody was the catalyst. His second over accounted for Weston, top-edging a sweep, and he then took two fine catches at second slip in the space of three balls from Michael Kasprowicz. Hick received his usual quota of short balls, some barely legitimate, and survived one top-edged pull off Glenn McGrath.

He did not quite see his team home, finally cutting Blewett tamely to Warne at gully, but Leatherdale, who never had short of confidence, came in buoyed by his bowling exploits to complete the victory with two fours in three balls.



Leatherdale, left, who took five for ten, and Haynes, who picked up the first four Australian wickets, were the Worcestershire match-winners

Morris's dazzling effort cancelled out by Law

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD. (Durham won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Durham by two wickets

JOHN MORRIS hit his first Sunday century when he joined Durham in 1994, but it was still not enough to give them what would have been only their second Axa Life League win in two seasons. Inspired by Danny Law, Essex recovered from a dreadful start to win with eight balls to spare in a pulsating finish.

It is probably just as well for Graham Gooch, that Essex did not succumb. He does not turn up at the County Ground for Sunday games these days, but he would have had a bit of explaining to do if Morris's dazzling 10, containing seven sixes and four fours, had shattered Essex's unbeaten one-day record.

Morris was so concerned about his last form at the end of last season that he summoned up the courage to seek advice from Gooch, who, as England captain, had banished him from Test cricket after he had taken an ill-advised trip on a Tiger Moth with David Gower in 1991.

Most weeks during the winter, Morris travelled from his Durham home to the indoor school at Chelmsford, where Gooch made the adjustments that he felt were necessary. Such refinements were not easy to identify in the frenzy of a Sunday game but Morris's returning confidence was, as he put Essex to the sword, a sharp chance of Walker.

How Durham were to pay for that.

Danny Law, striking the ball beautifully, made 82, his highest Sunday score, off 75 balls, hitting four sixes, all off the suffering Bolling, and four fours.

Grayson and Robinson supported him well and, although Essex still needed 30, when Danny Law sliced a drive to third man, Boll and Cowan completed the job with some alacrity.

He made a sketchy start and offered a hard return chance to Judd, when he had made 11, but after that he was unstoppable. One of his sixes, driven into the river off Such, took him to his 50 off 62 balls and he needed only 28 more balls to reach his hundred, which was completed with a six pulled ferociously over long-on off Grayson.

The first problem for Durham was the lack of support for Morris. Only Speak got very far in 14 overs, he called for a quick single and Morris was given run out after reference to the third umpire.

It did not seem to matter too much when Essex, the only team to lose to Durham on Sundays last year, began their innings in a manner that suggested a degree of complacency against the inexperienced Durham seamers. Pritchard, Stuart Law, Hussain and Irani all fell in rapid succession to Saggers and Killeen, and Danny Law himself would have gone for five if Morris, of all people, had been able to run in quickly enough at mid-off to hold a sharp chance off Walker.

How Durham were to pay for that. Danny Law, striking the ball beautifully, made 82, his highest Sunday score, off 75 balls, hitting four sixes, all off the suffering Bolling, and four fours. Grayson and Robinson supported him well and, although Essex still needed 30, when Danny Law sliced a drive to third man, Boll and Cowan completed the job with some alacrity.

Knight fails to find form as Warwickshire win

By RICHARD HOBSON

EDGBASTON. (Yorkshire won toss): Warwickshire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by four wickets

IN THREE competitions over the past week, Nick Knight has proved himself a decent temporary captain, in the absence of Tim Munton, by leading Warwickshire to success. Yet he leaves his county for Texaco Trophy duty this week with cause for concern.

For the third time in five days, Knight was dismissed in single figures by the Yorkshire attack and he will face Australia at Headingley on Thursday with an aggregate of 104 runs in five innings since his belated start to the season.

Knight believes that the finger broken by Heath Davis in New Zealand has recovered and can feel slightly unfortunate to succumb to a wonderful catch on his latest attempt to find some fluency yesterday. As Warwickshire pursued the 186 target he attempted to steer Gough through backward point but saw Vaughan dive forward to seize the ball low down.

As clouds gradually shielded the sun and a spring nip prompted spectators to reach for their second sweaters, this became an increasingly cheerless contest. Neither side took advantage of a short boundary and no pair of batsmen remained together for longer than ten overs. The initiative swung repeatedly but although it was a cat and mouse game it held no more tension than a Tom and Jerry cartoon.

After the dismissal of Knight, Smith smote liberally before driving to deep cover and Hemp could only glance an attempt to steer through third man to Blakey. Brown reverse swept to backward point, which served him right, and when Stump removed Penney and Ordier in the same over Yorkshire had a straight third win within their grasp.

However, Welch and Ashley Giles began their seventh-wicket stand sensibly before opening out to ensure that their side eventually won with something to spare.

In contrast to Knight, Giles will meet the England squad with another encouraging performance behind him. Earlier he conceded just 28 runs from eight overs of intelligent left-arm spin and those figures gain in value because he was employed late in the Yorkshire innings.

Graeme Archer was a little unlucky to fall to a catch at full-length by Hegg, but, when the progressive Dowman was bowled at the same score, St. L. making room to cut, the innings was in danger of folding. Ashley Metcalfe, who has never been, temperamentally, a one-day player, then steered the mid-order through accurate spells by an off-spin attack, and, assisted by Kevin Evans, was able to make the score respectable. He swept Watkinson for six and was seventh out, at 127, trying to repeat the feat.

Tour matrix

Worcestershire v Australia

WORCESTER. (Worcestershire won toss): Worcester beat the Australians by five wickets

AUSTRALIANS: *M A Taylor v Rhodes b Haynes ... 14

G S Blewett b Haynes ... 22

S F Waugh c Rhodes b Haynes ... 21

M J Law c Rhodes b Haynes ... 15

J Langer bv Latherdale ... 15

A C Gilchrist bv Latherdale ... 10

K A Healy not out ... 9

B P Wickett c & body b Latherdale ... 1

S M Waugh c Rhodes b Latherdale ... 3

M S Kasprowicz b Latherdale b ... 1

Latherdale ... 2

G D McGrath c Rhodes b Latherdale ... 4

E 104, 5-104, 7-105, 8-108, 9-113

BOWLING: Newport: 8-0-18-4; Haynes 10-1-104, 4-104, 8-104, 9-104, 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 5-104-5-104, 6-104, 7-104, 8-104, 9-104, 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Waugh 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Latherdale 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; Kasprowicz 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104; McGrath 10-1

SAILING

Law steers course to top-three ranking

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS LAWS climb back to the top of world match-racing sailing took another significant step forward at the weekend, when he swept away the challenge of Morten Henriksen, of Denmark, to clinch the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup for the second time.

Law lost only once in the competition, during the opening round-robin stage. It's a feeling he does not enjoy, and did not experience again as he defeated Andy Green, of Britain, in the quarter-finals, Bertrand Pace, of France, in the semi-finals and then Morten Henriksen on Saturday.

The young Danish sailing sailor, who is twelfth in the world match-racing rankings, had joked before the final series that Law would have to live up to his reputation for ruthlessness on the race course. In the event, the Englishman, who is resident in Bermuda for much of the time, put on a more fluent and tactically astute performance to shut out Henriksen.

Racing in light conditions in the lee of Hurst Castle, and after a long delay while the breeze filled in from the south, the two crews enjoyed very close races, with the lead changing hands on both upwind and downwind legs. However, Law's crew of Abby Hemming, Jones Stagg and Julian Salter always looked the smoother.

Law won the first race by 7sec and the second by 12sec. In the third, Law dominated the start, sailing Henriksen well away from the line, and then attacked him as he came back in, inflicting a penalty on the Dane, whose crew included Glyn Charles of Britain on starboard. There was then contact between the boats, which resulted in a second penalty to Henriksen that allowed Law to get away eight boat-lengths clear and the match was sealed.

Eddie Wardle Owen, who

watched Law all week, believes he is sailing as well now as at any stage during his long career, which was punctuated by a four-year period when he did not step into a boat. "The difference is that, under pressure, Law was just that little bit smoother and able to manoeuvre round marks with more speed, which translates into better acceleration," Wardle Owen said.

Law, himself, is clearly delighted with the team he constructed around him after losing the final of this event to Russell Coutts, of New Zealand, last year. "This was a really good clean British win against ten of the top 20 in the world," he said.

Law's impressive start to the year — he won the Australia Cup in Perth and was then second in a mini-American's Cup regatta in Auckland — has kept him firmly on course for his three goals for the season — to climb into the top three in the world rankings from his present position of sixth, to win the match-racing world championship, and to book himself a skipper's berth in the America's Cup.

If there is to be an America's Cup challenge from the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, which is by no means certain, it is going to be increasingly difficult to exclude Law, who is the most experienced and in-form British match-racer. But the question remains how to accommodate him or whether he would consider joining a team in which he was not the outright skipper or, indeed, whether he remains determined to sail for Britain and the Dorset challenge.

Law, apart from the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup, was still on course to beat ENZA's record and was plotted on Saturday as having the equivalent of a 1,060-mile lead on ENZA. De Kersauson closed still had about 600 miles to sail and was about 630 miles west of the Spanish coast. He should finish some time today. On Friday, he enjoyed an excellent day, putting in a run of 392.6 miles in 24 hours.

This is the de Kersauson's sixth attempt to win the Jules Verne Trophy since 1993. If he does break the record, he will make things more difficult for Tracy Edwards and her all-female crew, who are setting off in the revamped ENZA, renamed Royal SunAlliance, on their



Law, in the cap, and his crew leave Henriksen in their wake en route to lifting the Hoya Royal Lymington Cup

De Kersauson closes in on record

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE record for the fastest circumnavigation of the world, set by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir Peter Blake on ENZA New Zealand in 1994, is under threat as Olivier de Kersauson, of France, completes his voyage on the monohull *Sport-Elec*.

Early yesterday, de Kersauson was still on course to beat ENZA's record and was plotted on Saturday as having the equivalent of a 1,060-mile lead on ENZA. De Kersauson still had about 600 miles to sail and was about 630 miles west of the Spanish coast. He should finish some time today. On Friday, he enjoyed an excellent day, putting in a run of 392.6 miles in 24 hours.

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own attempt to beat the record in January next year.

In New York, one of the most spectacular gatherings of super-yachts and classics assembled set off on the Rolex Atlantic Challenge Cup on Saturday. This commemo-

rates the 1905 record-setting crossing by the schooner *Atlantic*, bettered for the first time only last month by *Nicaragua*.

The fleet, which is racing to the Lizard, off Cornwall, before gathering in Falmouth

and then proceeding to Cowes for a round-the-island race, was led across the line by the ageing *Highfield Road* to a new all-purpose stadium. For £20 million, Coventry could have a 40,000-seat stadium with a roof that could be closed for other events.

Undeterred, Richardson has more ideas. The one gaining currency in Coventry is to move grounds from the ageing *Highfield Road* to a new all-purpose stadium. For £20 million, Coventry could

have a roof that could be closed for other events.

Richardson is attempting to convince the relevant authorities of the idea and, while he does that, another of his plans — floating the club — is simmering away. Richardson has hired Apax Partners, the merchant bank that advised

Manchester United and is behind Soccer Investments, the "shell" company that has

brought together the talents of Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool captain, Sir Rodney Walker, the chairman of the Sports Council, and Mike Edelson, a director of

Manchester United.

Apax has told Richardson that floating Coventry would be a better idea when he has a good story to tell. Staying up is not good enough. Building a new stadium is.

Apax has resisted the temp-

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



Coventry escape route leads to new horizons

With the theme tune to *The Great Escape* has become a common pursuit in Coventry over the past week, with jokes along the lines of "the *Titanic* would not have gone down if it had been painted sky blue" becoming ever more popular.

No one, though, could have been more relieved at the latest hair-breadth relegation escape by Coventry City than the club's chairman, Bryan Richardson. His grandioses plans to take the FA Carling Premiership club forward would have been severely damaged had Gordon Strachan's team not pulled off the latest survival feat.

Richardson, a former Warwickshire county cricketer, was thwarted in his attempt to buy Coventry rugby union club last year. He felt it would have been a good base for a sporting club along the lines of the one based at Loftus Road, home of Queens Park Rangers and Wasps, or the kind Newcastle United envisaged until it decided it might have an adverse effect on the club's flotation.

Undeterred, Richardson has more ideas. The one gaining currency in Coventry is to move grounds from the ageing *Highfield Road* to a new all-purpose stadium. For £20 million, Coventry could have a 40,000-seat stadium with a roof that could be closed for other events.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club's *Myth of Malham* race, from Cowes to Alderney, turned into one of the longest on record as the 84-strong field drifted in dropping winds. However, more than half the fleet finished the 82-mile course, with most arriving during the early hours of yesterday.

The overall CHS winner

was the Class 4 Sigma 33

Knights Challenge, skippered by Mathew Gage. The Class 1 winner was the IMX 36 *Simply The Best*, skippered by Paul Goss. The Royal Ocean Racing Club's *Myth of Malham* race, from Cowes to Alderney, turned into one of the longest on record as the 84-strong field drifted in dropping winds. However, more than half the fleet finished the 82-mile course, with most arriving during the early hours of yesterday.

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Knights Challenge, skippered by Mathew Gage. The Class 1 winner was the IMX 36 *Simply The Best*, skippered by Paul Goss. The Royal Ocean Racing Club's *Myth of Malham* race, from Cowes to Alderney, turned into one of the longest on record as the 84-strong field drifted in dropping winds. However, more than half the fleet finished the 82-mile course, with most arriving during the early hours of yesterday.

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Jennai Cox finds out why Hollywood stars prefer power yoga to the trendy fitness fads of the past decade

Stretch that means life

The surya namaskar exercise involves 18 movements and 18 breaths: hang your head between straight, locked arms with your bottom in the air and try to lay your feet flat. Bend one knee and bring the foot between your arms, rise and balance with arms outstretched in the warrior position.

Go down again and do the same on the opposite side. As I stand red-faced after the three or four minutes this takes to complete, our teacher, Paul Laurenson, tells the class the original yogis would repeat the posture "an auspicious 108 times". He lets us off lightly with five.

Yoga has many purposes and hundreds of variations.

First brought to the UK during the reign of Queen Victoria, it boomed in the Sixties and Seventies before disappearing along with other hippy trends during the Eighties.

But in the health-conscious Nineties hatha (or physical) yoga is experiencing a renaissance, particularly among men.

Along with women, they are realising not only the physical and mental benefits of this ancient form of exercise, but have also been attracted by a new stronger strain, known as power yoga, which is finding favour among top athletes here and in the US.

Warming to the idea, I attend an astanga vinyasa class (one of the more strenuous types) at the City Yoga Centre in east London.

Even though this is a beginner's class I am told, being pregnant, I must follow modifications of all the movements demonstrated by Lynne Pinette, who taught Jemima Khan before the birth of her son Sulaiman last November.

Expecting a few gentle stretches and relaxation techniques I find myself unprepared for the demanding levels of physical exertion and concentration required – even in the watered down version.

So that we can get in tune with ourselves there is no music, just burning incense mixed with the smell of bare



'It involves unlearning all the physical inhibitions we pick up as we grow.'

stuff bones clicking every time my hands hit the floor. Yet as the class progresses, muscles begin to loosen and my body adjusts to the suppleness needed for the moves.

After Mr Laurenson has demonstrated each posture, everyone copies in their own time and at their own pace.

Astanga classes are made up of a series of moves which demand that you breathe only through your nose, concentrate on what your body is doing and learn better balance and control.

We spend most of the time bending and stretching spines, arms and legs; reaching each

position involves almost every muscle in the body.

Hatha yoga actually involves unlearning all the physical inhibitions we pick up as we grow – children are said to love it. All the others in the class – mostly regulars – look relaxed and composed, very well toned and incredibly supple. This discipline is exhausting yet renewing; my mind is calm, but my body feels awakened for days after.

Yoga, from the Sanskrit word *yuj* meaning "to unite", leaves me after a one-hour session with an uncommon sensation of physical and mental togetherness.

In power yoga, as it is becoming more popularly known, the postures (asanas) affect joints, glands, nerves, internal organs and bones as well as muscles. The positions are not held for as long as in other forms of yoga, making it faster, more dynamic and probably more tiring. Athletes are attracted by its physicality and persevere for the many other benefits that practising brings.

Frank Brino recently inquired about one-to-one classes. With Jodie Foster, Warren Beatty and Rob Lowe among its practitioners, power yoga is spurring the revived interest.

Following almost 20 years of stagnation, teachers in Europe estimate participation to be rising by up to 20 per cent a year, especially in Britain, where there are about 250,000 regular students, as well as France, Germany and The Netherlands.

Teachers believe that as a new generation grows tired of the fast and furious fitness fads of the past decade with their short-term benefits, they will turn increasingly to yoga.

Physical yoga fills a mental and physical gap in people's lives," says Paul Laurenson. "It is the most complete form of exercise. I think in time has come."

By practising from ten to twenty minutes, five times a week, the body is quickly conditioned to overcome its habitual tightness and become flexible. Almost all of those in the class I attend could make their nose touch their knees without bending their legs.

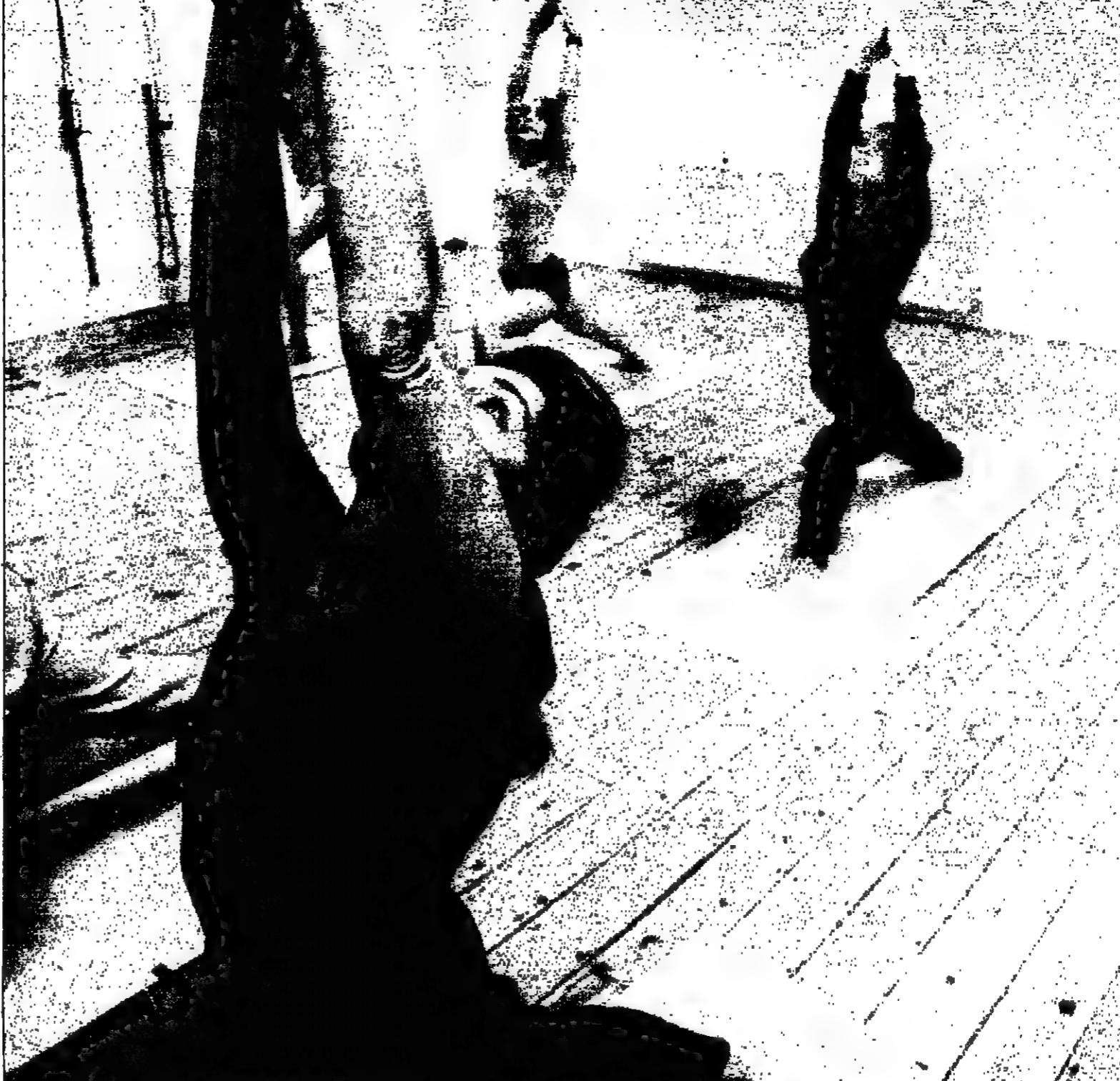
But this is not a precondition to start. There are forms to suit every age, level of fitness and physical ability.

Unlike aerobics or running, pregnant women can do it until the day they give birth.

Claims six years ago that, because it was invented by male Indian mystics, yoga is unsuitable for women are unfounded, Mr Laurenson says. Women practised in equal numbers to men when it originated in India 5,000 years ago, but with the rise of patriarchy, they were gradually banished. They now far outnumber male yogis in the West.

The most commonly used forms in Europe and the US focus on the physical, but there are other types, such as Iyengar, which is more static and concentrates on bodily alignment, or Sivananda, which uses meditation.

There is also evidence to suggest that when adapted, yoga can help relieve modern ills such as back pain and



Reaching out at the City Yoga Centre, where the studio is airy and light with ropes hanging from the walls that experts use for headstands



Jennai Cox practises the art of yoga and finds the postures affect joints, nerves as well as muscles

GETTING STARTED

■ TAKING yoga instruction from an unqualified teacher can be dangerous, so always look for a British Standards Approval (BSA) certificate and make sure your teacher is aware if you are a beginner, pregnant or experience any health problems.

■ CITY Yoga Centre offers a range of classes, courses and workshops from beginner to experienced level, including self-practice classes from 6.30 every morning. Mother and baby classes with Lynne Pinette start this month: 0171-253 3000.

■ YOGA for Health Foundation, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, runs residential courses from beginner to experienced level, plus specialist courses for people with health problems such as arthritis, MS and ME. The foundation also has a nationwide network of clubs: 01767 627771.

■ YOGA Biomedical Trust, Cambridge, conducts research into the medical benefits of yoga and has lists of teachers around the country: 01223 367301.

■ YOGA Therapy Centre offers therapeutic forms of yoga to treat ailments such as asthma, back pain and hosts pre- and post-natal exercise classes: 0171-833 7267.

■ THE British Wheel of Yoga, the governing body, has lists of qualified teachers: 01529 306851.

■ THE Iyengar Yoga Institute classes concentrate on posture and alignment: 0171-624 3080.

■ SIVANANDA Yoga Centre classes concentrate on meditation: 0181-780 0160.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A passive lead may not give away a trick, but it can certainly provide information about the leader's hand. This is an example from the TGR high game.

Dealer South

Love all Chicago

♦A84	♦A83
♦A82	
♦Q4	
♦J9782	
	♦1073
	VKQ9
	♦109875
	♦43
N	W
W	E
E	S
S	
♦KQJ82	
♦J42	
♦J8	
♦A10	

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: eight of spades

With engaging modesty the declarer has asked not to be named. All I can say is that he is tall, good-looking, a member of the British bridge team for the upcoming Maccaean Games, and the owner of a bridge club. He opened One No-trump (15-17) and North raised to Three No-trumps. At TGR's they often open marginal 15-17 point hands with One No-trump, as they play that the sequence One Spade – Two of a new suit – Two No-trumps shows a minimum opening bid.

What about the lead? My experience of leading doubleton is that it too often carves up my partner's holding. I think that the choice of lead from the West hand is between the seven of hearts (second best from bad suits) or the ace of diamonds.

Declarer played low from dummy on the spade lead and East put up the ten. Now, what is known about West's

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams wins

Grandmaster Michael Adams was one of the stalwarts of the England team that won the gold medals in the European team championship at Pula. Adams scored a reliable 5/9 and in so doing inflicted the following defeat on the Hungarian grandmaster Almasi. Adams's weapon in this game was the sharp Marshall Gambit in the Ruy Lopez.

White: Zoltan Almasi

Black: Michael Adams

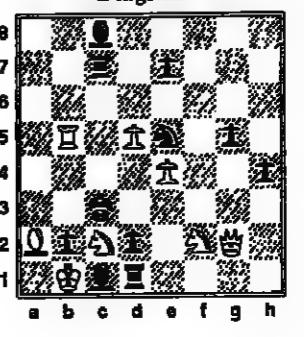
Pula, May 1997

Ruy Lopez

1	di	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Bd4	Nf6
5	Qd2	Bd7
6	Rf1	b5
7	Bb3	d5
8	c3	0-0
9	cd5	Nc6
10	Nc5	Nc5
11	Rf5	cd5
12	cd5	b6
13	d3	Qh4
14	g3	Qh3
15	Re4	Qd7
16	Nd2	b7
17	Rf1	d5
18	Ne4	Bd7
19	a4	b4
20	Bg5	Bg5
21	Nc6	bxc3
22	bxc3	h6
23	Ne4	Qd6
24	Qh5	Rad8
25	a5	1
26	Nd2	h5
27	Nf3	h4

White resigns

Diagram



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HALACOR

- a. A pungent curry spice
- b. A Belgian horn
- c. An Untouchable

JETTAGE

- a. A ballet movement
- b. Harbour dues
- c. Stuff thrown overboard

KENSPECKLE

- a. A caleb
- b. A speckled hen
- c. To inspect

INFUNDIBULAR

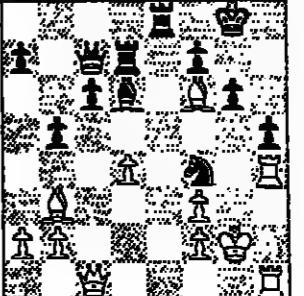
- a. From the beginning
- b. Not cultivatable
- c. Shaped like a funnel

Answers on page 44

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Blackburne – Schwarz, Berlin 1881. White has an impressive concentration of force against the black king-side but his first priority is to deal with the check from the knight. What is the best way to do this?



Solution on page 44

Regulation not activity of economic nature

Institute of Chartered Accountants v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Roger Parker

Judgment May 19

The Institute of Chartered Accountants was not entitled to charge a value-added tax on the services it made for granting licences and certificates to practitioners in accountancy who, in their subscription or other consideration of the facilities or advantages available to its members, as auditors or as insolvency practitioners.

Those were not activities of an economic nature. The fact that the institute generated revenue from the issue of licences, certificates or maintenance of its register to cover overheads did not mean that it was "an economic activity" in so far as the institute was performing public services to which any idea of commercial exploitation with a view to profit was alien.

Further, those functions were typical of the activity of a public authority. Although connected with the activity of the profession of accountancy, the activity of the institute did not consist in the supply of such services for a consideration but in ensuring that those in the profession who did provide such services did so in accordance with the law.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the institute from the dismissal by Mr Justice Tucker on February 13, 1996, of an appeal from VAT Tribunal, which had upheld a ruling of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise on March 25, 1994, that the institute could not charge VAT for the services. Leave to appeal was granted.

Section 4 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 provides:

"(1) VAT shall be charged on any supply of goods or services made in the United Kingdom where it is a taxable supply made by a taxable person in the course or furtherance of any business carried on by him.

"(2) A taxable supply is a supply of goods or services made in the United Kingdom other than an exempt supply."

Section 5 provides: "(2) (a) 'supply' in this Act includes all forms of supply, but not anything done otherwise than for a consider-

ation; (b) anything which is not a supply of goods but is done for a consideration; (c) a 'supply' of services."

Section 44 provides: "(1) In this Act 'business' includes any trade, profession or vocation.

"(2) Without prejudice to the generality of anything else in this Act, the following are deemed to be the carrying on of a business: (a) The provision by a club, association or organization (for a subscription or other consideration) of the facilities or advantages available to its members.

Mr Andrew Thorncroft, QC, and Mr Rupert Baldry for the Institute, Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners.

LODGE JUSTICE BELDAM said that on the supplies used in performing the services, the institute was registered for VAT and the effect of the ruling by the commissioners was that it was unable to recover by way of set-off the VAT which it had paid.

Mr Thorncroft placed emphasis on the decision in *Commission v The Netherlands* Mr Advocate-General Lenz had examined the meaning of "economic activities" in article 4(2) of the Sixth Directive.

He pointed out that the provision did not require the exercise of a profit-making activity or one subject to market forces, but only a permanent activity pursued for a consideration.

After drawing attention to the fact that "economic activities" was not limited to an extensive definition, he said at paragraph 29: "It is not the character of the service which is to be primarily or exclusively connected towards the market or economic life in order to come within the scope of VAT: it is sufficient that they are actually connected with economic life in some way or another."

The essence of the court's decision was in paragraph 9 which read: "In view of the wide definition of the term 'economic activities', encompassing all the activities of the professions without any reservation in respect of professions regulated by statute, it must be concluded that so far as notaries and bailiffs in The Netherlands provide services to private individuals on a permanent basis and in return for remuneration they carry out an economic activity within the meaning of article 4(2) of the Sixth Directive."

That reasoning suggested that the definition of "economic activity" did require consideration of the nature of the activity although its purpose and the mere fact that it was regulated by statute were irrelevant.

The same reasoning was applied in the case of the Spanish tax collectors: *Ayuntamiento de Sevilla v Recaudadores de las Zonas Primera y Segunda* (Case C-202/90) (1993) STC 659.

Neither of those decisions

done by implying the words necessary to achieve that result."

Applying that approach it seemed plain that the words of the 1994 Act were intended to encompass the activities referred to in the Sixth Directive and that the court had to approach the interpretation of that Act in accordance with the purposes of the directive and decisions of the European Court bearing on the meaning of an activity.

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The Good University Guide

Work experience is a lift-off to the future

David Charter looks at the results of a survey that reveals graduates' prospects for finding jobs

Unemployment rates of recent graduates vary widely depending on the subject they studied, despite a growing belief that course choice is a declining factor in employers' requirements.

It will come as little surprise that vocational first degrees have the lowest unemployment levels, although the figures also show graduates in "shortage" academic areas reap early rewards in the jobs market.

Of the major university subjects, law graduates are least likely to find themselves unemployed, followed by education students. But just 75 per cent of modern language students and 77 per cent of chemists were out of work six months after graduation, according to figures compiled for the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services.

In contrast, 12.5 per cent of art and design graduates and 11.7 per cent of sociology or social studies students were still unemployed.

The table of unemployment rates should be read with caution because graduates in some subjects, such as law, would expect to go on to further study to qualify as lawyers or barristers.

The highest rates of full-time employment recorded by the December after graduating came in education, at 86.3 per cent, then computing, at 77.5 per cent, followed by business and management graduates, 74.7 per cent, and electrical engineering students, 69.3 per cent.

Overall, more than 60 per cent of 1995 graduates were in full-time employment by the December after they left university. Around a fifth of these were on short-term contracts and one in 40 was self-employed.

About 10 per cent had then started a higher degree and a further 10 per cent were in some other form of study or training. A total of 9.2 per cent were listed as unemployed. Figures in the table do not add up to 100 per cent because some graduates were in part-time work, while seeking a permanent post or further training.

Bob Ward, statistical information manager at the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (CSU), said: "We are keen to stress that these figures are a snapshot, based on a survey six months after graduation, and give an idea of first steps along the career path."

"In terms of employability, the most important message seems to be to gain work experience while you are at college and show you are developing skills beyond the requirements of your course. This is as important to employers as your course content."

In a separate survey, Barclays found the highest-paid graduates from 1996 studied computer science. Six months after graduating, they were earning an average of £15,750.

The Barclays survey of 1,500 graduates found the next highest paid were in law, on £14,626, then mathematics, £13,532. The aver-

age salary of those in employment by December after graduating was £12,697.

Those earning below the average included graduates in the creative arts (£11,739), social, economic and political studies (£11,440) and from biological sciences (£10,359).

Graduates are still far less likely to be unemployed than non-graduates. The latest unemployment rate for graduates of all ages is 4.2 per cent compared with 8.1 per cent for the population as a whole. Mr Ward said this had been linked to three traits of "graduateness": flexibility, the ability to innovate, and core skills such as communication and teamwork. He added: "The model that is being built up is that, during the course of their career, graduates will move from employer to employer gaining different skills."

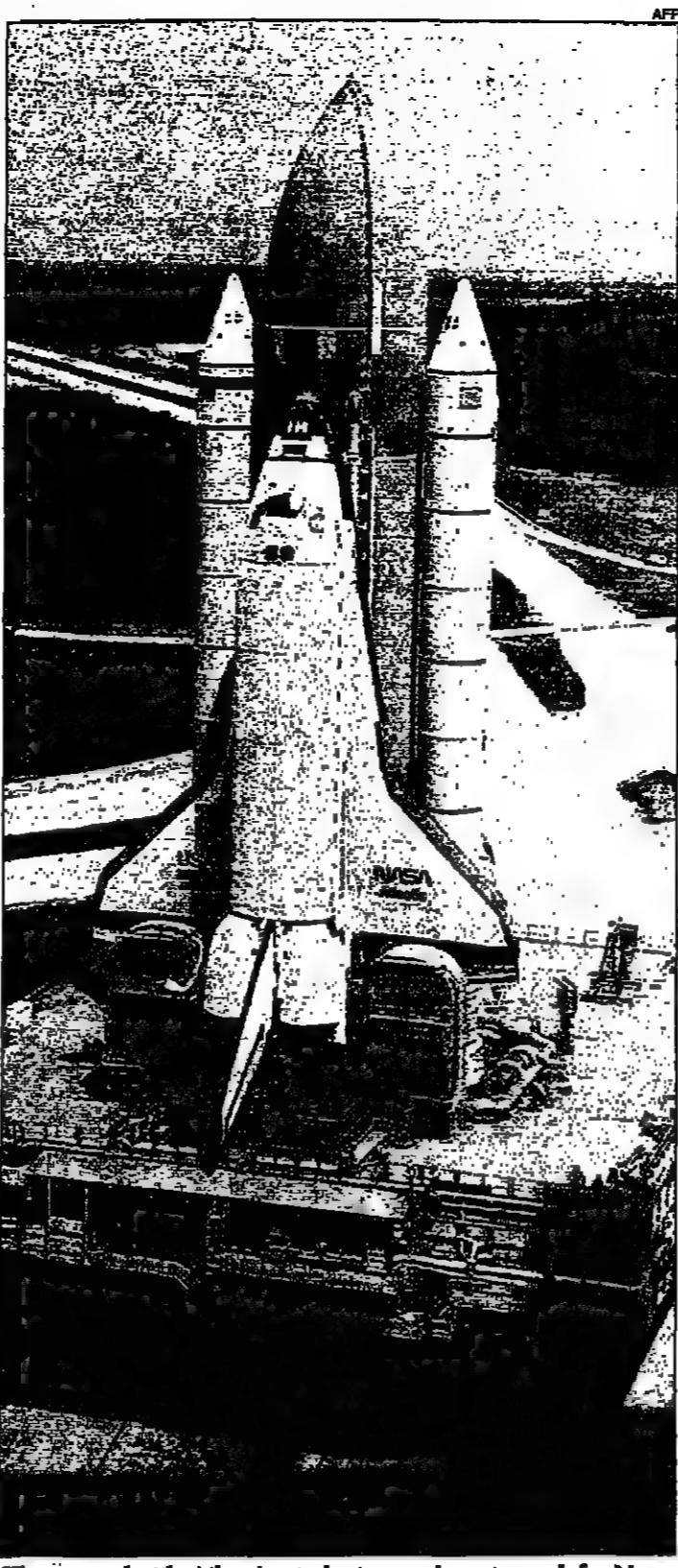
There is a perceived demand for good-quality graduates in computing and IT, so new graduates in those subjects are more likely to find a job. But in terms of other subjects, there is a growing concept of lifelong learning, that you will never entirely leave the education system, and that, formally or informally, you will be topping up your skills."

Roy Cockman, chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, said: "My advice to any young person would be that if they aspire to go into a career that demands a specific vocational degree, such as veterinary science, medicine or engineering, then by all means do a degree based on that. But if you are not, then read a subject at university that you are interested in rather than something which you think will give you a better ticket for a job at the end of it."

• What Do Graduates Do? price £5.95, published by CSU, 4th floor, Armstrong House, Oxford Road, Manchester M1 3ED.

EMPLOYMENT RATE		
1995 GRADUATES		
Subject	Job	Study
Art and design	68.2	18.4
Sociology/Soc studies	61.8	18.7
Biological sciences	47.9	34.7
Business/management	74.4	7.9
English	49.7	32.6
Electrical engineering	69.3	17.0
Computing	77.6	8.2
History	52.6	30.7
Physics	42.1	43.0
Mathematics	63.4	33.7
Geography	58.7	26.5
Chemistry	43.2	44.6
Modern languages	61.6	24.1
Education	86.3	3.6
Law	24.3	85.7

Source: AGCAS



The space shuttle Atlantis: students were keen to work for Nasa



David Bailey worked part-time for McDonald's during his studies while Joanna Brock joined after graduation

Beef up your job prospects

Term-time jobs are the bane of modern student life, according to academics, who see the chances of a good degree diminishing with every shift. But opinion is changing as evidence mounts that temporary employment can sometimes be as influential as the degree itself in determining career prospects.

Employers are likely to favour the graduates they know from work placements and some, like Procter and Gamble, are now taking up to half of their intake this way. Careers advisers say that recruiters increasingly demand evidence from part-time employment of a commitment to their type of business. Usually, this means vacation work or, where available, sandwich courses that include placements. But some students find that a term-time job can set them on a career path.

David Bailey, who graduated from the University of East Anglia last year, followed his brother's example by working as a McDonald's crew member during vacations at home

TERM-TIME EMPLOYMENT

in London. The link led to a term-time job in Norwich and now a salaried post.

Mr Bailey says: "My only idea in the first place was to make some money while I was studying. In retrospect, it may have affected my work, but I was able to tailor the hours to the course. I think term-time and vacation work can be a good thing because you get the opportunity to see whether you enjoy the environment."

Having found that he did enjoy it, Mr Bailey discovered that the hamburger chain has a growing number of salaried posts for graduates. At the age of 21, less than a year after graduating, he is earning £17,500 and often finds himself in charge of 30 staff as a junior manager.

Joanna Brock, 22, a colleague at the restaurant in Leytonstone, northeast London, took the alternative route. After a string of temporary jobs while at Loughborough University, for example, everything from lunch

time supervision in local schools to industrial cleaning goes through the highly popular agency run from the careers office.

Not surprisingly, there are wide variations between institutions in the number of students enjoying career-related work experience, with the technological universities offering most opportunities. More than 80 per cent of students at Bath, Aston and Loughborough universities had some work experience by the time they reached finals, according to the High Fliers survey. At Leeds and Strathclyde, by contrast, the proportion was 60 per cent.

The survey showed that much of the work done by students was casual employment and not necessarily related to future careers. Those who had secured structured work experience tended to clock up six or seven months' employment by the time they graduated, usually over two summer vacations.

JOHN O'LEARY

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE TABLES: THE FULL STORY

This Friday

The Times Higher Education Supplement publishes the raw unweighted data which goes into compiling the university league tables. So if you want to make up your own mind, you know where to look.

HIGHER
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT
Which universities are best at what?

GET YOUR COPY AT YOUR NEWSAGENT

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

TODAY

Interims: Aberdeen Asset Management, Countryside Properties, Grenadian Group, RM. Finals: British Airways, BTG, Foreign & Colonial Eurotrust, Independent Parts, Silk Industries. Economic statistics: UK PPSBR (April), US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Abstrust Polar, Countryside Properties, Elbridge Pope & Co, Hazelock Group, Morgan Grenfell Equity Inc, Royal & Sun Alliance (Q1). Finals: Jarvis Porter, Marks & Spencer, Videologic. Economic statistics: UK motor vehicle production (April), Bank of England gilt auction, Spanish industrial output (March), US Fed Open Market Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bass, Carlton Communications, Fenner, P&O (Q1), H Young Holdings. Finals: Blacks Leisure Group, Courtauds, Chamberlin & Hill, Hoare Govett 1000, Hoare Govett Smaller, Land Securities, Merchant Retail, Mercury European Privatisation Trust, National Power. Economic statistics: UK provisional M4 money supply (April), UK final M0 money supply (April), UK Building Societies Association monthly figures, UK British Bankers Association monthly figures, minutes of April 10 UK monetary meeting, US trade deficit (March), US Treasury April Budget statement, OECD report on the Republic of Ireland.

THURSDAY

Interims: Acasta & Hutchinson, Brooke Industrial, Vaux Group, Finals: Celesse Int, City of London PR, Glenmorangie, PowerGen, Southwells, Storehouse, York Waterworks. Economic statistics: UK April retail sales, UK provisional GDP (Q1), CBI May economic forecast/industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: European Fats & Oils, Finalists: Cestines, Essex Furniture. Economic statistics: none scheduled.

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Twist in tale at buoyant Bass

BASS: The drinks, hotels and leisure group, is expected to report pre-tax profits of between £30 million and £33 million for the six months to March 31 on Wednesday, compared with £28 million at the same time last year. A rise in the interim dividend to about 3.3p (7.7p) is predicted.

A trading statement released in February reflected a generally disappointing Christmas period, in line with comments made by other leading brewers, while the slowdown in growth in the Holiday Inns division will be exacerbated by the strength of sterling against the dollar. The US accounts for about 80 per cent of Holiday Inns operating profits.

Overshadowing the results is the continuing delay over Bass's proposed £205 million acquisition of Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has already passed its recommendations to the Department of Trade and Industry but with the change of government, the whole process may now be delayed further. The deal may result in 2,000 job losses in the Burton constituency newly won by Labour.

On top of this, Bass is under fire for making Hooch, the country's leading alcopop.

MARKS & SPENCER: A leap in pre-tax profit to more than £1.1 billion is expected when results for the year to March 31 are announced tomorrow. This compares with £997 million last year. Volume growth is expected to have continued at an exceptional level, except in children's wear which is causing all retailers some difficulties.

Food sales, which are suffering the effects of price deflation, are expected to be less impressive. The investment in improved service announced at the half year, is expected to mean costs have risen roughly in line with sales.

BRITISH AIRWAYS: BA is facing threats of industrial action by cabin-crew and questions about the planned alliance with American Airlines. These may overshadow today's full-year results from the nation's flag carrier. BA is expected to deliver a progress report on the Step Change programme, aimed at saving £1 billion in costs, and is likely to urge speedy approval of BA-American, pointing to the rival Star Alliance between Lufthansa, SAS, United Airlines and others. The City is looking for pre-tax profits of £620 million plus, against £585 million last



Sir Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, awaits approval to buy Allied Domecq's Carlsberg-Tetley stake

time, with Merrill Lynch forecasting earnings of 47.3p a share, with the payout up 8 per cent to 14.7p.

NATIONAL POWER: As with PowerGen, National Power will find that signs of further resistance to the windfall tax will be looked for when the country's two largest generators report year-end results. The City has factored in large hits for both but would welcome news that they will take legal action against a levy.

With electricity consumption having unexpectedly grown since last year, the home market for the two generators should provide a sturdy if unremarkable performance. More attention will focus on their overseas interests — an increasingly important field because they have relatively little scope for growing their UK business.

Overseas power projects can take a long time to deliver results,

but analysts will be keen to see signs of strength to ameliorate concerns that some countries offer unstable prospects. They will be particularly interested in developments at National Power's Hub River project in Pakistan and Hazlewood, its Australian plant. National Power raised eyebrows with the price it paid for Hazlewood in the privatisation of the station.

POWERGEN: PowerGen recently led analysts towards a £530 million to £585 million range of forecasts for its year-end results in a pre-closed-season briefing note. Then it also indicated that its own Australian plant was expected to deliver a loss for the year.

COURTAULDS: The chemicals group is expected to announce a modest advance in full-year pre-tax profits on Wednesday, with the rampant pound and sickly

viscose market casting a shadow over the results.

Analysts' forecasts for pre-tax profit are in a narrow range between £132 million and £136 million, compared with £131.5 million in the year to March 1996.

The dividend is expected to rise to between 16.4p and 16.5p from 16.5p previously.

The strength of the pound will act as a significant restraint.

Some 85 per cent of the group's sales are outside Britain.

In February, Courtauds said the

strength of sterling and the sale of four non-core operations last year would blunt the impact of trading improvements at most of its core businesses, which include industrial coatings and sealants and consumer packaging.

The second drag on progress continues to be viscose, where profits and prices have been hit by global oversupply and declining demand. The company has indicated that there are some

signs of recovery in viscose, but nothing to get elated about.

Analysts will be watching for reassurance that the group's plans to introduce new production capacity for its highly successful new fibre Tencel are on course. An announcement of the location of new Tencel capacity in Asia is expected this year.

STOREHOUSE: The share price has been hit by rumours of problems at Mothercare during Storehouse's closed season and analysts fully expect to downgrade next year's forecasts again when its final 1996 results appear on Thursday. Like-for-like sales growth at Mothercare is expected to be down 2.4 per cent, with costs growing and the gross margin under pressure. Current sales will also be closely watched at BHS, which is at least expected to show some growth. The consensus forecast is for a pre-tax profit of about £118 million, up nearly £10 million on a year ago.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE: Pre-tax profits of between £186 million and £200 million are expected for the three months to March when the first-quarter results are announced tomorrow. This compares with £157 million for the same period a year ago.

The main focus of attention will be the level of progress made with the integration of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, and any further announcements the group may make regarding its proposed 5 per cent buyback.

GREENALLS GROUP: Interim pre-exceptional profits of between £63 million and £65 million (£57 million) a year ago, are expected. A rise in the interim dividend to between 6.65p and 6.8p a share (6.22p) is also expected.

Today's figures will be the first since the group introduced its new divisional structure, which has seen the amalgamation of its food-led outlets with managed pubs and the conversion of 245 managed houses to tenancies.

Managed houses and restaurants now account for more than half of group profits and with the inclusion this time of Premier Lodges and Premier House analysts are expecting the inn division to show a marked improvement in profitability.

Nick Lyall, of SocGen, the broker, expects the reorganisation to add about £10.4 million to divisional operating profits, which should reach £42 million and include a first full interim contribution from Boddingtons, bought for £600 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Keep an eye on the Fed

The new Chancellor is due to speak at the CBI dinner tomorrow. His audience will strain for any hint of higher taxes in the forthcoming Budget, beyond those on utilities. After today's holiday on the Continent, however, attention is likely to stray across the Atlantic, where the US Federal Reserve Board's open market committee meets to mull over US short-term interest rates. Opinions are divided between those who expect the Fed to adopt a wait-and-see stance, giving the US economy a chance to slow down before summer, and those who expect a quarter-point rise in rates to help it on its way.

The outcome will be too late to guide tomorrow morning's auction of £1.5 billion plus short-dated gilt-edged stock. From a domestic viewpoint, Thursday's similarly sized auction of long-dated stock could be more significant. It will allow the debt market to give a more considered verdict on the impact on the implication of Gordon Brown's handover of interest rate powers to a Bank of England committee.

Among the week's gaggles of UK economic statistics, greatest scrutiny will be applied to April retail sales trends, due to be unveiled on Thursday. Was the "feel-good" factor accelerating in Britain's high streets before the election and were windfall gains from demutualisation beginning to swell consumer demand? Median forecast of those collated by Standard & Poor's MMS is for a 0.3 per cent rise up to 4.1 per cent, but several, including Charterhouse Tilney, Nomura and S&P itself, expect a little more. Yamachii's John Sheppard goes for a 0.8 per cent rise in April on the back of windfalls. Also on Thursday, the CBI's industrial trends survey will monitor the effect of sterling's strength.

Bank of England officials, who have been giving more attention to burgeoning growth in the money supply, will doubtless pounce on any acceleration in M4, the wide measure, revealed by April figures on Wednesday. Median forecast is for a 0.8 per cent rise on the month, boosting 12-month growth from 11.2 to 11.4 per cent, against a monitoring range of 3-9 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent on Sunday: Buy Allied Leisure, Torex Group; **Sell De La Rue, The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Easynet, Inn Business; **Sell Mercury Asset Management:** The Observer; **Buy Updown Investment:** Sell BT. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Aggregate Industries, Marks & Spencer, Safeland; **Take Profits:** Independent Inns. **The Sunday Times:** Buy Aquarius Group, Premier Farnell, Weir Group.

Colonial windfall for UK investors

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

Peter Smedley, managing director, said yesterday that the shares would be listed on the market at the final institutional price of A\$3.10 (£1.55, 50 cents above the A\$2.60 price at which they were distributed to Colonial policyholders under demutualisation last year. The company had expected institutions to bid in the range A\$2.50 to A\$2.90. Mr Smedley said:

"Vigorous bidding in the institutional stage of the offer has helped push up this price."

The higher listing price means that policyholders who received the average 1,000 shares in Colonial's A\$1.3 billion share distribution have already seen their value rise from A\$2,600 to A\$3,100.

About half of Colonial's 35,000 policyholders in the UK took shares rather than sell

them before the listing. Mr Smedley said policyholders who had chosen to sell will receive a cheque at the end of the month, with the price expected to be midway between the retail and institutional price at A\$2.85.

The float will raise A\$200 million in new equity for Colonial to buy Sardine Pacific's half share of Jardine CMB Life, Colonial's Asian business.

Analysts will be keen to see

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Notice to Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 14th May, 1997 it was resolved to capitalise the sum of £1,657,251,621.00 being part of the amount standing to the credit of 'Revaluation reserve - Investment' and to apply that sum in paying up in full new Ordinary shares of 25p each for distribution credited as fully paid amongst existing holders of Ordinary shares in the proportion of two such new Ordinary shares for each Ordinary share held.

Certificates for the new Ordinary shares distributable in respect of holdings of registered shares will be posted by 4th July, 1997.

To enable holders of Ordinary shares represented by Warrants to Bearer to obtain their Certificates for the new Ordinary shares, Coupon No. 198 must be deposited on or before 20th August, 1997 at Lloyds Bank Registrars, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL, together with a duly completed Application Form and Listing Form, copies of which may be obtained from Lloyds Bank Registrars at the aforementioned address.

If Coupon No. 198 is not so deposited together with a duly completed Application Form and Listing Form on or before 20th August, 1997, or such date as the Board (or a duly constituted Committee thereof) may decide, the new Ordinary shares to which the holder of a warrant would have been entitled will be sold and the holder of such warrant, on subsequently depositing Coupon No. 198 and duly completing such forms as the Board (or a duly constituted Committee thereof) may require will be entitled to receive only the net proceeds of sale, after the deduction of expenses.

Coupons No. 198 deposited as aforesaid will not be returned to the depositor and no coupons bearing that number will be used for the payment of dividend. Coupon No. 199 will be the next coupon after No. 197 to be used for that purpose.

By Order of the Board
J.E. Munsiff
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
19th May, 1997

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for each share held.

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Anne Ashworth and Nathan Yates on one of the loopholes in Labour's sights

Brown may brush away tax break on art heirlooms

A valuable concession that enables the wealthy to hand down works of art to their heirs tax-free is a likely target for abolition or change in Gordon Brown's first Budget.

The removal of the heritage property tax break would fulfil the Chancellor's pledge to close inheritance tax loopholes. Labour has already voiced concern at the abuse of the concession.

Inheritance tax at the rate of 40 per cent is payable on all estates of £215,000 or more. But in the case of art or objects of scientific interest, owners can avoid the tax by placing their possessions on the Inland Revenue's register of conditionally exempt works. The aim is to prevent families from being forced to sell artistic treasures. But in return for the exemption,

the public must be allowed access. In practice, this is not always easy, as appointments must be made, often through solicitors. If Mr Brown does not remove the loophole, it is thought that he could compel owners to make their Gainsboroughs more readily available to the public gaze.

John Whiting, of Price Waterhouse, the accountant, said: "It is clear that, in some cases, the public is not getting as much access as would be desirable. Rather than abolish the relief, the Chancellor should ensure proper access."

Those who believe that easier access should be Mr Brown's preferred option point to the comparatively small amount of money that would be raised by abolition. In 1993-94, the last year for which figures are

available, £122 million of works qualified for exemption from tax, costing the Exchequer some £49 million in lost revenues. The recent strengthening of the art market would suggest that later years have seen the total value of tax-free bequests rise, possibly losing the Exchequer some £60 million a year.

In recent weeks, accountants have been perusing the conditionally exempt register, which now appears on the Inland Revenue Internet site (<http://www.ctr.edi.co.uk>) checking which families could bear the brunt of any tax change.

The 15,000 items listed would fill several galleries. Among the paintings and sketches are two drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, one located in Clwyd and the other in Derbyshire. A Hampshire resident holds two portraits by Renoir, and there are also works by Durer, Titian, Rubens, Van Dyck, Manet and Picasso. Under furniture, there are no fewer than 65 pieces of Chippendale. There are silverware items by de Lamerie and clocks by Tompion.

Famous British artists feature prominently, with 46 Gainsboroughs, seven of which are owned by an individual in Norfolk. There are 18 Constables and six Turners, including a painting of Christ Church, Oxford, which is held by Farrer & Co, the Queen's lawyers. Works by Hogarth, Reynolds, Stubbs, Moore and Hepworth make up a formidable list of home-grown talent.

Under the books and manuscripts register there is a 1608 edition of Shakespeare's *Henry V* located in Lancashire. One of the more unusual literary relics is an oak frame containing four locks of Lord Byron's hair.

In order to be listed as exempt from tax and included in the register, works must be judged as worthy of display by a panel of experts.



Andy Warhol was one of the artists featured in the Christie's spring auction in New York

Christie's claims spring triumph over Sotheby's

Christie's has claimed victory over Sotheby's in the important spring art auctions, setting a strong tone for the art market for the rest of the year. The success comes against a background of sharply rising prices, with buyers prepared to pay staggering sums for Impressionist and modern paintings.

In a week that saw more than \$350 million worth of art sold in New York by the rival auction houses, Christie's proved to have attracted the bigger clients. It launched the week with the sale of the collection of John Loeb, the late Wall Street financier, which brought in \$92.7 million, at the top end of expectations.

Christie's total sales for the

week totalled \$265 million — the highest since 1990 — emphasising the strength of the buying interest. It included the sale of Impressionists, which raised \$234.5 million. Sotheby's sold less than half of Christie's total, with \$122.5 million in sales for the week.

"The prices were very strong this time," said Franck Girard, head of Christie's Impressionist department. "But we were also helped by the outstanding quality of the pictures we were selling. This is very positive for the rest of the year."

Christie's said the market among collectors was broadening worldwide as economic conditions improved.

Many pictures in last

week's sale went for more than their top asking price, according to both auction houses. Christie's sold *Jeune femme au baignoir* by Auguste Renoir for \$12.4 million compared with an asking price of \$8 million. A Gauguin sold for twice its expected price, while modern works by Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning and Andy Warhol, whose *Big Torn Campbell's Soup Can (Pepper Pot)* featured, also sold for more than their highest estimated price.

Several records were set in prices for individual artists. Sotheby's sold a Klimt for a record \$14.7 million. Louise-Lorraine's *Seated dancer with pink stockings* went for \$14.5 million, also a record.

RICHARD THOMSON

Investors need to proceed with caution

After the recent sharp gilt rally, the absolute level of gilt yields is unlikely to drop much further in the next three months. Nevertheless, while gilt returns may be modest, gilts should still outperform most other leading bond markets. With bond yields expected to face upward pressure from faster German growth, the gilt-bond spread will probably fall to about 100 basis points over the next year.

The yield curve is now flat, with a spread of just 0.2 per cent between 20-year gilt yields and the interest rate level implied by December 1997 short sterling futures.

A significant further drop in long yields would require growth to slow sufficiently to avoid further base rate rises, or the curve to invert. Neither outcome seems likely. Base rates are likely to rise to 6.75 per cent in the next few months. Last week's *Inflation Report* made it clear that the newly independent Bank sees risks that inflation will be above the 2.5 per cent target in two years' time. The chances seem low that the upcoming mini-budget will hit consumers enough to eliminate all pressure for higher base rates. Big consumer tax rises, say of £5 billion or more, would look like a breach of the pre-election theme of "truth".

At the same time, the current conditions do not point to an inverted yield curve. The curve usually only inverts when real short rates are high (as in the mid-1980s), or short rates have risen sharply (as in the late 1980s), or when growth is slowing to a standstill pace (as in 1990). Base rates of about 6.75 per cent are not high enough to push the economy into recession and, hence, allow a subsequent period of falling rates. The

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Salomon Brothers

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

HALACOR

(c) "One of the lowest and vilest class in Persia, India, etc., to whom everything is lawful food. From the Arabic and Persian for a thing religiously lawful or indifferent. Robert Burns, letter 1786: 'Those misguided few who joined, to use a Gentoo phrase, the halacors of the human race'."

JETTAGE

(b) Dues levied on vessels for the use of jetty or pier (as at Hull). After wharfage, crage and all the other old harbour perks and fiddies. "Freemen as well as non-freemen pay Jettage. The charge for Jettage is not made unless with goods landed or taken in at Hull or within the Harbour."

KENSPECKLE

(a) Easily recognisable, conspicuous. Scottish and Northern dialect. Probably from the Old Norse *kenspekk* the faculty of recognition. Darwin, letter of 1862: "Your notion of the Aristocrat being kenspeckle is new to me."

INFUNDIBULAR

(c) Funnel-shaped, infundibuliform. Having a funnel. From the Latin for a funnel. Latin *infundere* to pour. "The uterus itself is infundibular in its shape."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Qxd4 Bxd2 2 Rxd5 gxf5 3 Rxf5 and mate inevitably follows along the line.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

Treat yourself to a break at half-price

This week *The Times* offers you the chance to save between £49 and £129 on a choice of two-night weekend stays at more than 70 Forte Posthouse Hotels in the UK. You pay only half the normal weekend price per couple.

The selection ranges from a former 16th-century coaching inn on the edge of Epping Forest to the Forte Posthouse Regent's Park, in London.

These are ideal hotels for short breaks, especially if you are planning to get out and about this summer with our Virgin Trains £5-£20 return ticket offer (see page 33).

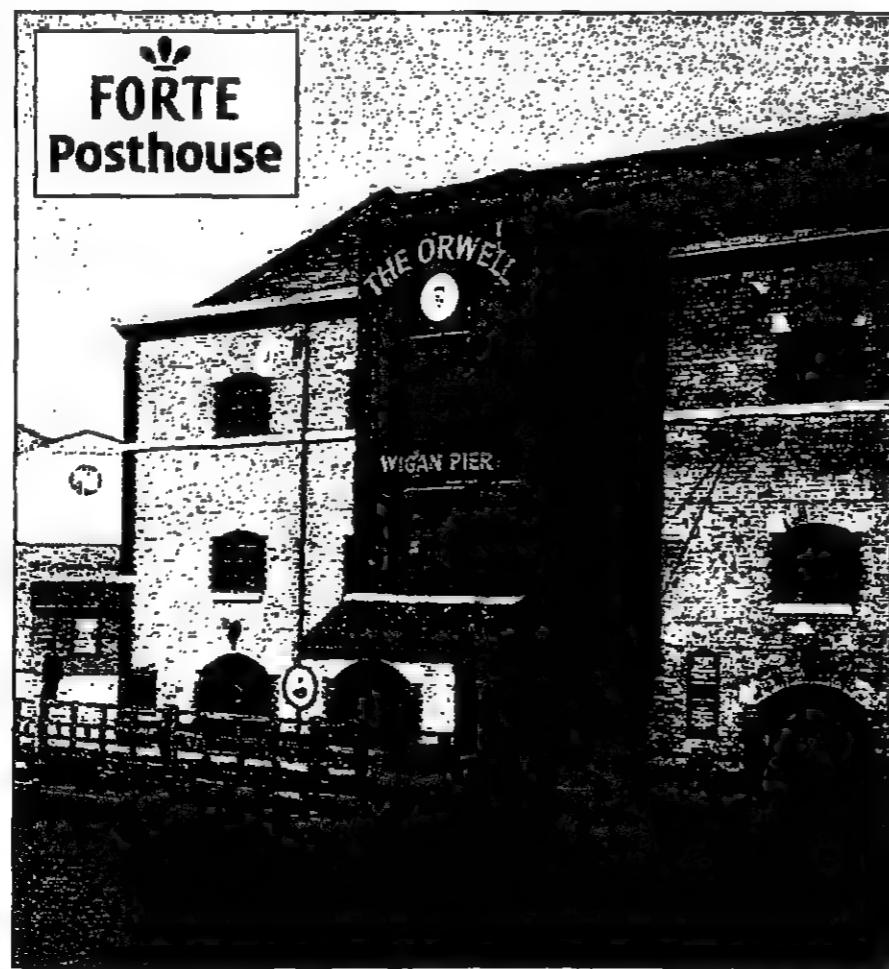
The hotels offer runs from June 1 to September 19, 1997, and includes the August bank holiday weekend. It is based on two adults sharing a double or twin room for a minimum of two nights, one of which must be a Saturday night, on an accommodation only basis.

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* this week and call the central reservations number, below, to book. Present the tokens at your chosen hotel on arrival.

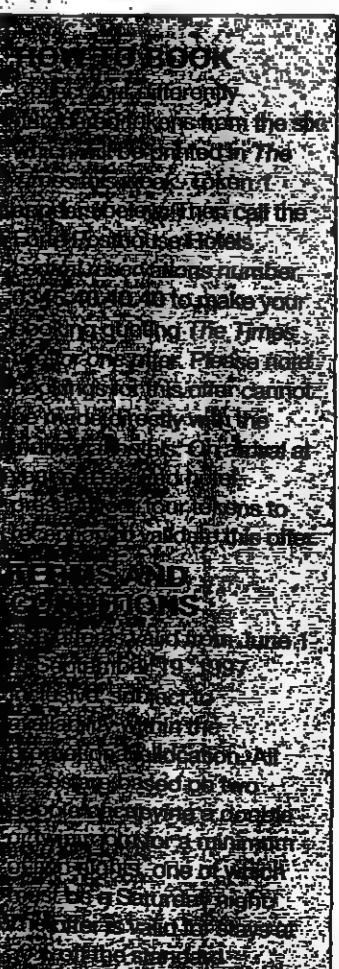
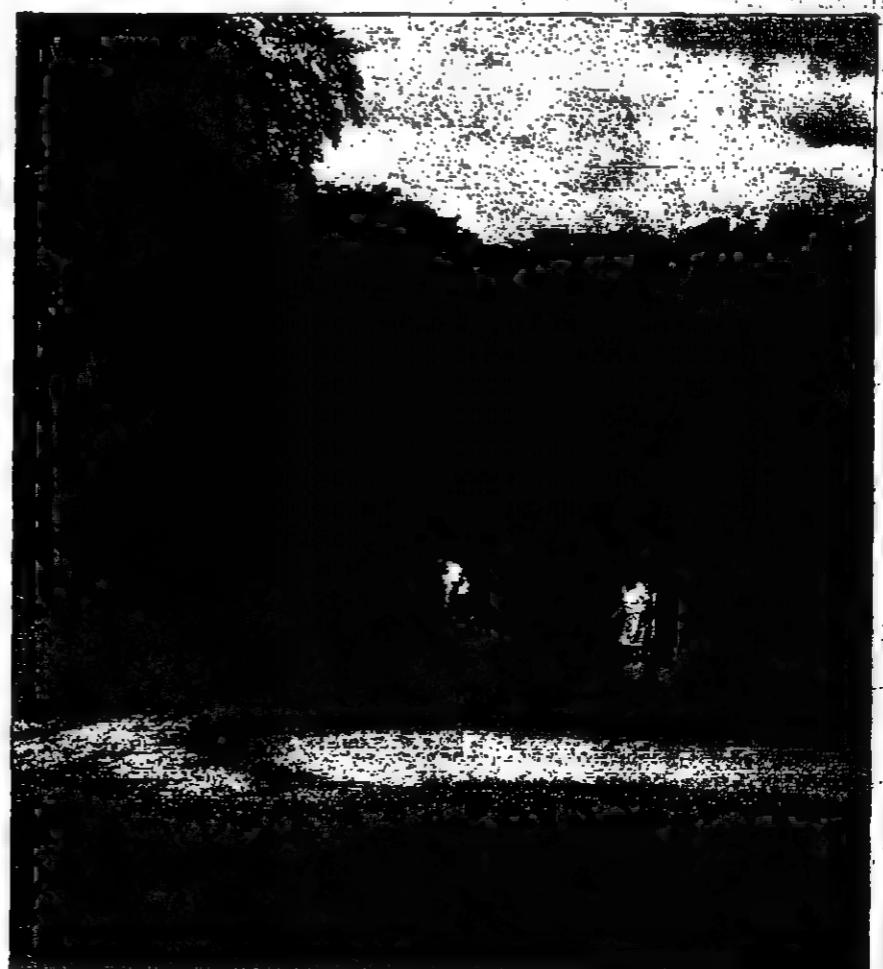
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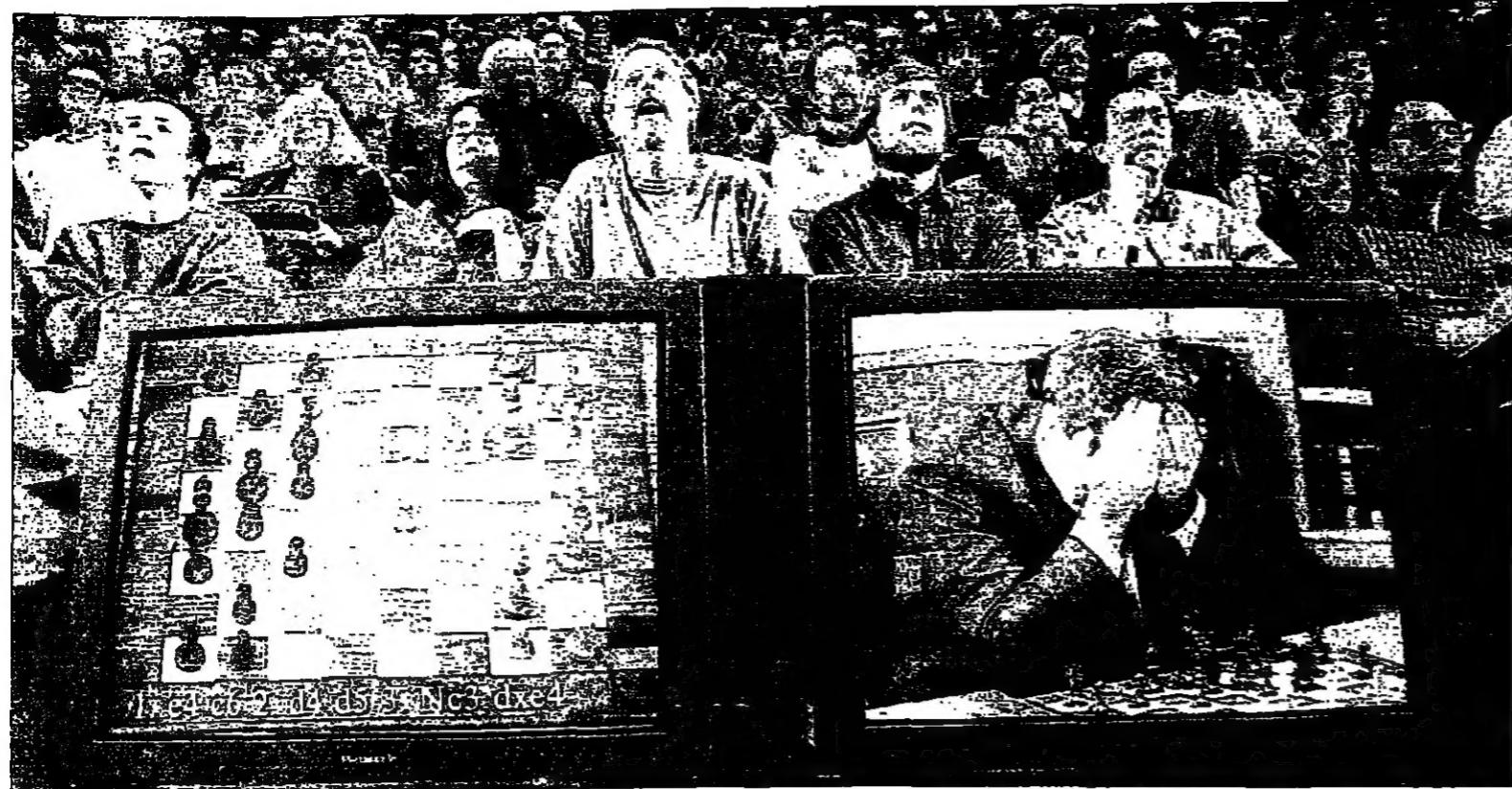
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CHANGING TIMES



A resigned Garry Kasparov — beaten by the Deep Blue supercomputer — helped to signal a return to rude health for IBM after an astonishing revival

Big Blue sea change may not be enough for critics

Richard Thomson analyses the revolution at IBM and explains the remaining causes for concern

May has been an historic month for IBM. Deep Blue, its supercomputer, beat Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, to become the first machine to defeat a grandmaster. Two days later, the company's shares reached \$177, at last regaining their previous record level after ten long years of waiting. Both events signalled that IBM is back in rude health after an astonishing revival with few parallels in US corporate history.

Most of the credit is due to Louis Gerstner, the tough chief executive brought in to rescue a company that appeared to be close to death's door four years ago. To see the extent of his achievement, consider IBM's position when its shares were last worth more than \$170.

That was just before the 1987 stock market crash when IBM's market value was \$100 billion.

making it America's largest company. Big Blue was seen as the blueprint for success, the blue chip's blue chip. No one

saw the seeds of disaster.

Then came the market

crash. But while other com-

panies' shares recovered in the following years, IBM's did not. It is the last of the companies in the Dow Jones industrial average of ten years ago to have regained its pre-1987 share price.

The company failed to recover because it did not keep up with the breakneck change in the computer industry. It was still trying to sell its traditional mainframes when the world was switching to personal computers. With an unwieldy bureaucracy, it could not adapt fast enough. It was outsmarted by Bill Gates who persuaded IBM to allow Microsoft to keep control of the operating system for IBM machines, so turning Microsoft into one of the world's most successful companies. By the early 1990s, IBM's losses and write-offs soared to more than \$20 billion. It seemed to be in terminal decline and its shares slumped by 77 per cent to below \$40.

Then, in 1993, came Gerstner. Brusque, arrogant

and capable, he took the job no one else wanted and made a success of it. Although IBM's previous management had begun to tackle the company's problems by cutting its bloated workforce, Gerstner seemed to have a vision of the future. IBM had to be nimble, diversified and aggressive like the upstart companies such as Microsoft, Intel and Hewlett Packard which now dominated the computer market.

His first task was cost cutting. He sacked 30,000 employees and improved the efficiency of the 240,000 who remained. In the past four years profit per employee has risen nearly 60 per cent. He also shook up IBM's complacent corporate culture, in which decisions took months or years to make and management failures went unpunished. Gerstner brought in new aggressive management and revived IBM's traditional reputation for marketing and customer care. He also

made the bold strategic decision to continue with mainframe computers. He strengthened it by buying Lotus Notes, the network software company, for more than \$3 billion and brought out a new line of faster, cheaper mainframes.

At the same time, IBM fought its way back into the competitive PC market with a range of new products. Its Thinkpad laptops, for instance, are now regarded as being at the leading edge of the market.

Industry analysts and investors remain sceptical about whether enough has been done, however, — as a comparison with IBM's industry rivals shows. In spite of the share price rise, IBM has a low rating. Its historic price/earnings ratio is only 15, compared with 22 for Hewlett Packard and 22 for Microsoft.

There are several reasons for this caution. For instance, although revenues have risen 40 per cent in the past ten years,

earnings have crept up only 3.2 per cent. This is because profit margins have shrunk dramatically from the 50 per cent that IBM reaped on its mainframes in the mid-1980s.

This would matter less if revenues were still expanding rapidly, but they are not. Last year they grew just 5.6 per cent, compared with the 20 per cent plus growth rates of some other computer companies.

So why have IBM's shares risen so strongly? One important reason is the company's aggressive financial engineering. In one of the largest share buyback schemes undertaken, IBM has spent \$1.2 billion on repurchasing its own shares over the past two-and-a-half years. So although the share price is back at the 1987 level, its market value has dropped from more than \$100 billion to \$85 billion.

The financial engineering has made the underlying financial position of IBM look better than it really is, given the slow revenue growth and the low profit margins.

Another problem is how much longer Gerstner, the saviour of IBM, will want to stay in charge. He recently said he was still warming up, but he has also said: "I've basically completed what I was asked to do. How much longer do I want to do this? This is an unsettling statement for investors who fear that IBM might lose its momentum if he left.

So enough questions are hanging over IBM's underlying business and future management to cause concern. Dramatic though it has been, the revival is not yet complete. IBM is back on the road and the wheels are turning, but it still has a long way to go.

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20324.73 (+521.9)

STOCK MARKET

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1.6375 (+0.0320)

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Exchange index

98.6 (+0.6)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

Bank Boys

Bank Girls

Australia \$ 2.20 2.04

Austria Sch. 20.48 18.94

Australia £ 5.00 5.27

Austria S. 2.350 2.175

Cypres Cyp. 0.887 0.800

Denmark Kr. 11.20 10.30

Finland F. 4.90 4.50

France Fr. 9.78 9.05

Germany DM. 2.92 2.70

Greece Dr. 1.30 1.15

Hong Kong \$ 12.36 12.25

Iceland 127 107

Ireland Pt. 1.13 1.05

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Japan Yen 2200 2082

Korea 20.20 18.80

Malta 3.04 2.92

New Zealand \$ 2.51 2.28

Norway Kr. 12.11 11.25

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Sweden Kr. 15.18 12.15

Switzerland Fr. 2212.16 227

Turkey Lira 21685.20 21685.20

USA \$ 1.73 1.599

Yuan 0.25 0.24

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Iceland 127 107

Great production values. When does it end?

The peak-time drama slot on a Sunday evening has become one of the toughest battlefields in the ratings war, with ITV and the BBC sending stars, actors, writers and directors over the top in a bid to capture the heartland occupied by little old you and me. Are we duly impressed? Not entirely.

Your advantage last night was that you only had to watch one of the offerings, because of course they clashed. Mind you, little would have been lost by switching between the two, for although several things can be said in favour of *Plotlands* (BBC1) and *Wokenwell* (ITV), neither can be accused of proceeding at a dizzying pace.

There is a phrase fondly used in tellyland and it is "production values". To ordinary mortals, this means that a wall does not shake when someone slams a door and porcelain dishes do not look as if

they are made of plastic. Both of the dramas which opened last night had high production values.

But there is another phrase more common among viewers and it is: "What time does this finish?"

The asking of this question is a sure sign that things are flagging a little, on screen, that splendid production values are all well and good but would it not be nice if something surprising were to happen — and quite soon? The defining damnation of each drama is that it does not much care what happens next week.

I suspect *Plotlands* will do better with awards panels being won by the story of a woman taking the odds. It is set in 1922 and concerns Chloe Marsh (Saskia Reeves), who flees a violent marriage by paying £5 for a plot of land outside London. She and her two daughters, aged 14 and 10, live in a tent and eat a living picking potatoes. Reeves is a splendid actress and

Rebecca Callard and Jade Williams are marvellous as the children: their sullen refusal to accept that life has to be like this, even for the time being, is conveyed with an authenticity that every parent will easily recognise.

One of the distinguishing features of BBC drama series in the past few years is that they have tended to start slowly and get better, so I am not about to write off a series written by Jeremy Brock, the co-creator of *Casualty*, and produced by Louis Marks (*Middlemarch*, among others). But the unrelieved gloom of episode one was hard to take.

At least *Plotlands* takes risks by having depth. *Wokenwell*, for all its attempts to play at black comedy, is formula drama with undertones of *Heartbeat* and the Ruth Rendell stories which have served ITV well in peak time. Here, too, the acting is excellent

and the writing (by Bill Gallagher) is good but would it not be nice if something surprising were to happen — and quite soon? The defining damnation of each drama is that it does not much care what happens next week.

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Bonney (Celia Imrie), a ceremony absurdly curtailed when a human hand is found at the reception. Horrocks could not have been more stunned if his sausages had *E. coli*.

So yes, black comedy, but only up to a point. There is more to that art than dropping bits of anatomy into otherwise humdrum situations, and the cries of the producers in preview interviews that this is "not just another police series" smack of protesting too much.

The best opportunity to sustain the claim that *Wokenwell* is markedly different as opposed to slightly different was wasted. There was a rich vein to be mined in the fact that the detective investigating the gruesome discoveries was also the butcher's best man. But this became a mere sideshow as the script pursued an utterly conventional line about the bride being stalked by her former husband. Been there, seen that.

The lesbian and gay movement apparently began 100 years ago, and last night saw the start of it's Not Unusual, a three-part documentary series on gay life in Britain this century. The opening covered the years to 1951 and was subtitled *Age of Innocence*.

Merely there was no attempt at moral analysis, so instead we were able to hear gay people talk about their gayness and the ways in which it manifested itself. The interviewees were devoid of any bitterness or anger and simply recounted their early experiences of same-sex attraction, some of the penalties for which were ironic.

One man recalled how, at public school, he had been found beating another boy on the bottom, for which the punishment was to be beaten on the bottom by a master. Several of the lesbians interviewed made the point that at all girl

schools, romantic attachments were positively encouraged, being seen as a way of delaying the evil day when girls might chase boys.

At least two people in the film explained how, having started same-sex relationships, they thought they had better try to do what society expected, so began to go out with members of the opposite sex. But this lacked something. "I just wasn't turned on by women," said one man. Another even got married, but it was not to last.

This raises the time-honoured argument of the homophobes, which is that gay relationships are not "natural". I may have difficulty understanding why a man would want to have a romantic relationship with another man, but that is merely a matter of preference. To suggest that a man should become involved with women against his instincts is nonsensical. It isn't natural, either.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (34074)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (3432)	
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (362180)	
9.20 Style Challenge (5640797)	
9.45 Kilroy (7768345)	
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (74432)	
11.00 News (T) Regional News and Weather (7502890)	
11.05 The Great Escape Interactive holiday magazine (7929880)	
11.35 Real Rooms (Sian Blag) presents a new series in which a viewer has a room in their house transformed by a team of designers and decorators (894744)	
12.00 News (T) and weather (613616)	
12.05pm Call My Bluff (884567)	
1.00 News (T) and weather (49818)	
1.30 Regional News and Weather (8855180)	
1.40 The Weather Show (9738557)	
1.45 Neighbours (T) (4085610)	
2.10 Quirky Drama, starring Jack Klugman (8317971)	
2.55 Through the Keyhole (6156384)	
3.20 Connoisseurs' Collections Antiques Roadshow expert David Battie reveals his own collection of antiques (5209365)	
3.30 Playdays (8019635) 3.30 Monster Cast (653028) 4.05 The New Yogi Bear Show (6479277) 4.10 Casper (4933189) 4.35 50/50 (929984) 5.05 Newsround (T) (5793161) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (518803)	
5.35 Neighbours (T) (510258)	
6.00 News (T) and weather (109)	
6.30 Regional News (161)	
7.00 Aunnie's TV Favourites (Rolf Harris; 15-year-old Jess Flynn backstage at <i>Top of the Pops</i> ; Are You Being Served? actors reminisce) (T) (7635)	
7.30 Here and Now How the decline in legal aid and the rise in interest in consumer rights has led to an increase in the number of people opting to represent themselves in court. Plus a visit to a school in Newcastle Upon Tyne where girls as young as 14 are taking their babies into the classroom in order to continue their education (T) (345)	
8.00 EastEnders' Sanjeev's latest escapades land him in the doghouse. George discovers hell hath no fury like the Queen Vic's ladies when scolded. Lorraine pays a Titforty visit (T) (7105)	
8.30 Only Fools and Horses Del decides to enter the highly profitable tourist trade (T) (5980)	
9.00 News (T) and weather (1242)	
9.30 Panoramas A report on Iran's expanding terror network in Europe (T) (837242)	
10.10 The Set-Up (1949) Robert Ryan shines in this drama about an ageing boxer whose refusal to deliberately lose his last fight makes him a target for ruthless gangsters. Filmed in real-time. Directed by Robert Wise (1989987)	
11.40 Something Big (1971) Comedy western, with Dean Martin and Honor Blackman. A Cavalry colonel on the verge of retirement has one last battle with his long-time bandit enemy. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen (T) (101480)	
1.25pm Weather (4488198)	

BBC2	
6.00am GMT: <i>Exercise: A Curious Kind of Ritual</i> (2239635) 6.25 Science: Skills (814242) 6.50 Animated English: The Creature Comforts' Story (8835155)	
7.15 News (T) (2890518) 7.30: <i>Blow: Peter</i> (T) (1839155) 8.20 <i>Bump</i> (3848249) 8.25 <i>Open... a Door</i> (6125908) 8.35 <i>The Raccoons</i> (300529) 9.00 <i>TV</i> (768920) 9.30 <i>Ice Paris</i> (7345292) 9.45 <i>Watch Out</i> (7340567) 10.00 <i>Telebabies</i> (17722) 10.30 <i>Go Jez It!</i> (424971) 10.50 <i>Look and Read Special</i> (4517635) 11.10 <i>Zig Zag</i> (6427239) 11.30 <i>Ghostwriter</i> (2277)	
12.00 <i>Teaching Today</i> (90426) 12.30pm <i>Working Life</i> (2069) 1.00 <i>History File</i> (20237) 1.25 <i>Landmarks</i> (70293155) 2.05 <i>Open a Door</i> (30823703)	
2.10 <i>The Journey of Natty Geronim</i> (1985) Disney, adventure, set during the Depression with Meredith Salenger, John Cusack — and a wolf. Directed by Jeremy Kagan (894181)	
3.50A: <i>Day That Shocked the World</i> (T) (5374384) 3.55 <i>News</i> (T) (5373635) 4.00 <i>Bloodbath</i> (5287864) 4.25 <i>Ready, Steady, Cook</i> (520971) 4.45 <i>Esther</i> (1185197) 5.30 <i>Today's the Day</i> (363) 6.00 <i>The Simpsons</i> (T) (543265)	
6.00 <i>Space Precinct</i> (T) (347109) 7.10 <i>The Red and Stompy Show</i> (T) (442677)	

HTV	
6.00am GMT (4522388)	
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5421616)	
9.55 Regional News (T) (3849451)	
10.00 <i>The Time, the Place</i> (T) (11548)	
10.30 <i>This Morning</i> (2678722)	
12.20pm <i>Regional News</i> (T) (5135345)	
12.30 <i>News</i> (T) and weather (9211364)	
12.55 <i>The Pulse</i> (9212155) 1.25 <i>Home and Away</i> (T) (7037161)	
1.50 <i>Misfortunes</i> (1989) with David Sisk and John Izod. Two men embark on a hair-raising adventure when their plane crashes on a remote island. Directed by Bruce Donaldson (3787242)	
2.30 <i>News</i> (T) (6294451)	
3.25 <i>Regional News</i> (T) (293722)	
3.30 <i>Tote TV</i> (T) (5654109) 3.45 <i>Cartoon</i> (701600) 4.00 <i>Scoby Doo</i> (5878336) 4.25 <i>The Famous Five</i> (T) (4038242) 4.50 <i>The Big Bang</i> (T) (7177426)	
5.10 <i>Sorted</i> (T) (7674277)	
5.40 <i>News</i> (T) and weather (588364)	
6.00 <i>Home and Away</i> (T) (448831)	
6.25 <i>HTV Weather</i> (340967)	
6.30 <i>The West Tonight</i> (T) (529)	
7.00 <i>Wish You Were Here?</i> Leslie Joseph travels to South Australia. Judith Chalmers is in the Spanish port of Valencia and John Carter paddle-steams up the Mississippi (T) (2703)	
7.30 <i>Coronation Street</i> (T) (527772) awaits Judy at the amusement arcade (T) (513)	
8.00 <i>World in Action</i> Hard-hitting topical reports (T) (1451)	
8.30 <i>The Freddie Starr Show</i> Magician Wayne Dobson joins the unpredictable fundymen (T) (7293)	

CENTRAL	
As HTV West except:	
12.55 Home and Away (9123155)	
1.25 High Road (2211287)	
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (5869074)	
2.50-3.20 Westcountry Update (2510193)	
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7874277)	
6.25-7.00 Central News (695258)	
12.40pm <i>War of the Worlds</i> (4010556)	
1.40 Late and Loud (6901372)	
2.40 <i>Real Stories of the Highway Patrol</i> (8675407)	
3.00 <i>Film: The Night Caller</i> (5687407)	
4.30 <i>Central Jobfinder</i> (97) (2191933)	
5.20 <i>Asian Eye</i> (8875759)	

CHANNEL 4	
6.00am <i>Sesame Street</i> (T) (54884) 7.00 <i>The Big Breakfast</i> (52424) 9.00 <i>Bewitched</i> (T) (72525)	
9.30 <i>Schools Geography Junction</i> (T) (9.45)	
10.00 <i>Book Box</i> (T) (10.20) <i>Two Sciences</i> (11.10) <i>Schools el World</i> (10.20) <i>Off the Walls</i> (10.40) <i>The English Programme</i> (T) (11.05) <i>Encyclopaedia Galactica</i> (11.15) <i>The Mix</i> (T) (11.30) <i>Rel-tel-Tel-Tel</i> (12.01)	
12.00 <i>Australia Wild</i> (T) (71722)	
1.20pm <i>Light Lunch</i> (56525)	
1.30 <i>Fishing on the Cleo-Sleek River</i> (T) (8009535)	
1.50 <i>The Overlanders</i> (1946, b/w) with Chips Rafferty. A fact-based drama about an Australian driver who makes a 2,000-mile drive south across hostile territory to save 1,000 head. Directed by Harry Watt (T) (4999148)	
2.30 <i>Collectors' Lot</i> (T) (635) 4.00 <i>Fifteen-to-One</i> (242) 4.30 <i>Coronation Party</i> (242) 5.00 <i>Pump</i> (5798616) 5.30 <i>Countdown</i> (906) 5.50 <i>Good Friday</i> (242) 6.00 <i>Neighywood</i> (294267) 6.05 <i>Henno</i> (848857) 6.35 <i>Meridian Tonight</i> (T) (7483049) 7.00 <i>Swingin' City</i> (5954488) 7.30 <i>Young Bess</i> (T) (4557098) 7.55 <i>Merlin</i> (2001) 8.00 <i>Mer</i>	



ROGER BOOTLE 45

Hawkish Bank ready to swoop on inflation

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 19 1997

BUSINESS

GAME PLAN 46

How Big Blue moved out of the red



Formula One chief agrees £1bn price cut to get float off the grid

By JASON NISSE

BERNIE ECCLESTONE, the flamboyant chief executive of Formula One, has agreed to a cut up to £1 billion in the valuation of the motor racing marketing business so that it can be floated on the international stock markets this summer.

Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank that is backing the float, is expected to announce a timetable for the issue in the next few days. But the valuation has been

cut from earlier estimates of £2.5 billion to as low as £1.5 billion. The business owns the intellectual property rights to Formula One motor racing, controlling TV coverage and sale to international broadcasters. This year's turnover is expected to be £200 million, generating pre-tax profits of £85 million.

However, although Salomon expects to be able to have the prospectus ready by the middle of next month, key deals with the Formula One racing teams have yet to

be finalised. Three UK teams, Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell, have yet to agree to amended terms to the Concorde agreement which governs the distribution of the income from televising the sport in more than 100 countries.

They want a larger slice of the cake. "Viewers tune in to see our drivers racing our cars, not Ecclestone counting his money," said a leading member of one team. Although no deal has been signed, Mr Ecclestone, who is set to make more

than £500 million from the float, claims this is not a problem. He says he is prepared to offer racing teams and track owners a stake in Formula One to bring about the float.

Presentations to investors and analysts have already tentatively started, with Mr Ecclestone unveiling an impressive new management team. This is led by Helmut Werner, former chairman of Mercedes-Benz, as chairman, with Marco Piccinini, sporting director of Ferrari, as deputy

chief executive. David Wilson, formerly of Ernst & Young and Ladbrooke, as finance director, and two high-profile non-executives, Robert Rowley, finance director of Reuters, and Walter Thoma, head of the European operations of Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro cigarettes.

A presentation was made in London on Friday and Formula One is expected to take institutional investors to the Spanish grand prix this weekend.

Salomon is telling potential investors

that Formula One is set to have a massive step-up in profit as a result of pay-per-view TV. The technology was tested in coverage of the German grand prix last year, when the race was shown from various camera angles on different channels of German satellite TV. However, team owners have expressed concern that pay-per-view will cut audiences and reduce the income from sponsors, some of whom have been put off by restrictions on tobacco advertising, notably in France.

Amstrad given boost in \$186m US legal fight

By ADAM JONES AND JASON NISSE

AMSTRAD'S hopes of winning a second lucrative court battle over the allegedly faulty components supplied for its personal computers have been boosted by apparent disarray among its opponents' lawyers.

Alan Sugar's company is suing Western Digital Corporation, a leading disk drive manufacturer based in Irvine, California, for \$186 million in the US courts. The lawsuit relates to allegedly faulty disk drives that Western Digital made for Amstrad personal computers at the end of the 1980s. Western Digital denies the claim.

Ten days ago, Amstrad won £5.7 million plus interest in the High Court in London from Seagate Technology, another US company, over faulty hard disk drives it delivered for Amstrad PC 2386 computers.

Western Digital supplied drives for the same range, although it said the two court cases are very different. Unlike Seagate, Western Digital said it had at no point admitted to any design faults.

However, Irrell & Manella, the leading Los Angeles law firm that Western Digital has employed since 1991 to fight Amstrad has been disqualified from the case.

A California judge ruled that the law firm was subject

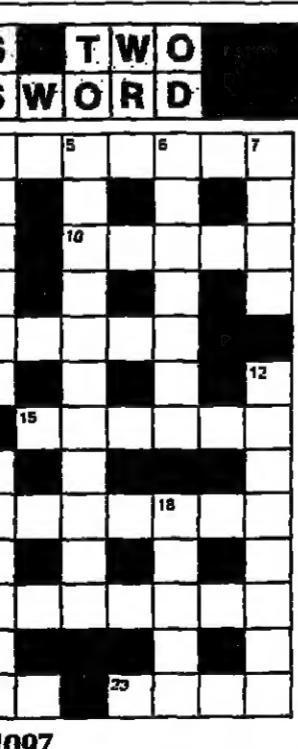
to a conflict of interest because it had hired a specialist consultancy that Amstrad had already approached. The consultancy had seen confidential information from Amstrad that the judge ruled could have been used against it in the case.

Western Digital and Irrell & Manella have requested that the judge reconsider. The case is due to start on June 30. It can be postponed, but, under Californian law, cannot be delayed beyond this year.

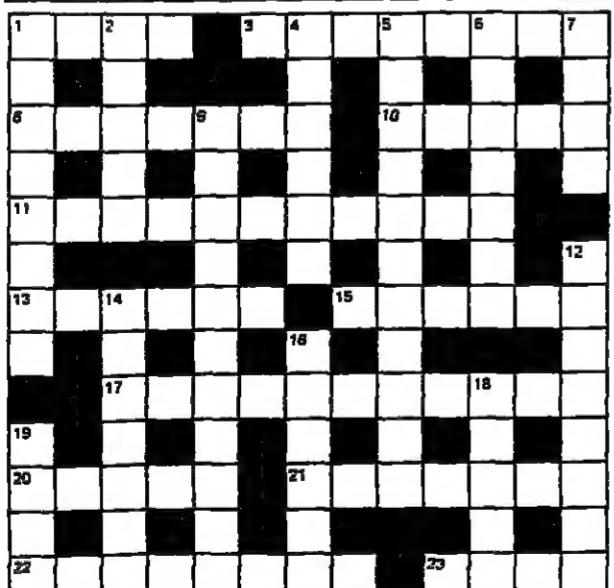
Robert Blair, of Western Digital, said that it would be possible to adequately prepare a new team. "It's certainly a setback, but we are confident that we have enough time, even if the judge doesn't reconsider," he said.



Sugar: outraged by rival



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1097

ACROSS
1 Live in tent: effeminate (4)
3 Bully, intimidate (8)
8 Semi-human slave (*Tem-
Asia*?) (7)
10 Praise highly (5)
11 Dejected (11)
13 Obscure prophecy (6)
15 Rook: Englishman's home
(*prov.*) (6)
17 Of regular form (11)
20 Exhaust, empty (5)
21 Boy king murdered in
Tower (6,1)
22 Government department (8)
23 Great house: entry, dining
room (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1096
ACROSS: 1 Skater 5 Reduce 8 Atop 9 Disraeli 10 Banish
12 Lure 15 Rite of passage 16 Naff 17 Dangle 19 Crabwise
21 Bite 22 Accept 23 Legion
DOWN: 2 Katharina 3 Tip 4 Red shift 5 Rusk 6 Deadly sin
7 Col 11 Ineffable 13 Rigoletto 14 Hard sell 18 Gist 20 Roc
21 Bag

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By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FORGET the Square Mile. Never mind the rich South East. Britain's best place to do business is Leamington Spa.

The leafy Warwickshire town has been adjudged Britain's most profitable business town, giving a clean sweep for the Midlands' traditional heartland of British industry. Not only is Leamington the best town to do business in, but Warwickshire is the best county and the Midlands' best region.

Leamington's success comes in a survey by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company. Drawing on its database of more than 50,000

businesses, it ranks areas by the proportion of profit-making businesses they have. Nationally, 79.9 per cent of Britain's businesses made a profit last year. D&B says, however, in Leamington, 92 per cent of businesses were profitable. Leamington is followed by Barnet, north London, and Chichester, West Sussex, both with a 90 per cent profitability rating. More curiously, they are followed by Rotherham, south Yorkshire, with 89 per cent, and Middle-class Chester.

The rest of the top ten towns are Hertford, Dudley, in the West Midlands, and Halifax, West Yorkshire, and Shrewsbury and Eastleigh, near Southampton, all of which enjoyed a profitability rating of more than 88 per cent. Most of the towns are popular destinations for visiting shoppers.

Warwickshire is top county with 88 per cent, followed by Co Antrim. The West Midlands is top region at 83 per cent, followed by the North West.

THE TEN MOST AFFLUENT BUSINESS TOWNS IN THE UK

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Classics such as *Pride and Prejudice* will feature on digital terrestrial TV in